

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2002

SESSION OF 2002 186TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 12

SENATE

TUESDAY, February 12, 2002

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Robert C. Jubelirer) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by the Secretary of the Senate, Hon. MARK R. CORRIGAN:

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, we pause this evening and take these few moments to turn our attention to You, for You are the beginning and the end of all things. We thank You for all the gifts and blessings You have so generously bestowed on us. Help us to keep ever mindful of the role You must play in all our human endeavors, if they are truly to be successful. Bless us in our work this evening. Amen.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. A quorum of the Senate being present, the Clerk will read the Journal of the preceding Session of February 11, 2002.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the preceding Session, when, on motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, further reading was dispensed with and the Journal was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT 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 STATE
ATHLETIC COMMISSION

February 12, 2002

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, Ron Greenley, 2476 Elfreth's Alley,

Bensalem 19020, Bucks County, Sixth Senatorial District, as a member of the State Athletic Commission, to serve for a term of four years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice George Bochetto, Esquire, Philadelphia, resigned.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

**RECALL COMMUNICATION
LAID ON THE TABLE**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which was read as follows and laid on the table:

MEMBER OF THE STATE
ATHLETIC COMMISSION

February 12, 2002

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated October 29, 2001 for the appointment of Jaime Gibson, 10 B West Beale Avenue, Enola 17025, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, as a member of the State Athletic Commission, to serve for a term of four years and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice George Bochetto, Esquire, Philadelphia, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

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 1519 and 1830.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILLS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate SB 765 and 767, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

SENATE BILLS RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate SB 766 and 1169, with the information the House has

passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

The PRESIDENT. Pursuant to Senate Rule XIV, section 5, this bill will be referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

Recess adjournment.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

February 11, 2002

Senators MURPHY, TOMLINSON, TARTAGLIONE, WOZNIAK, M. WHITE, O'PAKE, CONTI, THOMPSON, PICCOLA, KUKOVICH, LAVALLE, HELFRICK, EARLL, KITCHEN, LOGAN, DENT, ERICKSON, ORIE, BRIGHTBILL, RHOADES, ROBBINS, BELL, BODACK, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FUMO, HUGHES, KASUNIC, MELLOW, MUSTO, SCHWARTZ, STACK, STOUT, WAGNER, A. WILLIAMS, C. WILLIAMS, GERLACH, LEMMOND and SCARNATI presented to the Chair SR 165, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution urging the President of the United States to act quickly on the recommendations of the International Trade Commission regarding the domestic steel industry.

Which was committed to the Committee on INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, February 11, 2002.

BILLS SIGNED

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Robert C. Jubelirer) in the presence of the Senate signed the following bills:

SB 765, SB 767, HB 1519, HB 1830 and HB 1948.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The SECRETARY. Consent has been given for the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to meet during today's Session to consider Senate Bills No. 820, 1109, 1169, House Bill No. 1758, Senate Resolution No. 164, House Resolution No. 416, and certain nominations.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Senator THOMPSON, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported the following bill:

HB 1802 (Pr. No. 3320) (Amended) (Rereported)

An Act reforming the law on medical professional liability; providing for patient safety and reporting; establishing the Patient Safety Authority and the Patient Safety Trust Fund; abrogating regulations; providing for medical professional liability informed consent, damages, expert qualifications, limitations of actions and medical records; establishing the Interbranch Commission on Venue; providing for medical professional liability insurance; establishing the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund; providing for medical professional liability claims; establishing the Joint Underwriting Association; regulating medical professional liability insurance; providing for medical licensure regulation; providing for administration; imposing penalties; and making repeals.

Senator MOWERY, from the Committee on Public Health and Welfare, reported the following bill:

HB 1655 (Pr. No. 2861)

An Act establishing the family support services program for certain families with persons with disabilities; providing for the powers and duties of the Department of Public Welfare; establishing a Statewide Family Support Advisory Council; and providing for regional advisory councils.

Senator DENT, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bill:

HB 2203 (Pr. No. 3309) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for required contractual provision regarding home inspections.

Senator ARMSTRONG, from the Committee on Labor and Industry, reported the following bills:

SB 813 (Pr. No. 931)

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, further providing for the discount rate on workers' compensation insurance policies.

HB 481 (Pr. No. 2853)

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, further providing for rescue volunteers.

HB 1171 (Pr. No. 2800)

An Act amending the act of December 18, 1984 (P.L.1004, No.204), entitled "An act extending benefits to police chiefs or heads of police departments of political subdivisions of the Commonwealth who have been removed from bargaining units by the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board," further providing for the salary of nonunion police officers.

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

SB 1029 (Pr. No. 1718) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance.

SB 1054 (Pr. No. 1313)

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for appeals from government agencies, for the selection of judicial officers and for the discipline or removal of judges or district justices; amending provisions relating to evidentiary matters; and making a repeal.

SB 1252 (Pr. No. 1636)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for airport violence and for entry by false pretense to secure area of airport; and further providing for the offenses of falsely impersonating persons privately employed and for carrying explosives on conveyances.

HB 2129 (Pr. No. 2841)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the offense of unlawful possession of retail or library theft instruments.

Senator PUNT, from the Committee on Community and Economic Development, reported the following bill:

HB 247 (Pr. No. 1710)

An Act amending the act of July 10, 1986 (P.L.1263, No.116), known as the Community Services Act, further providing for the expiration of the act; and making editorial changes.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator DENT, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following resolution:

SR 161 (Pr. No. 1707)

A Resolution commemorating the work and accomplishments of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency on the occasion of its 30th anniversary.

Senator D. WHITE, from the Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs, reported the following resolution:

SR 165 (Pr. No. 1716)

A Concurrent Resolution urging the President of the United States to act quickly on the recommendations of the International Trade Commission regarding the domestic steel industry.

The PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be placed on the Calendar.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator LOGAN. Mr. President, I ask for a legislative leave for Senator Fumo.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Logan requests a legislative leave for Senator Fumo. Without objection, that leave is granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator BRIGHTBILL asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator BELL and Senator HELFRICK, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 2

BILL REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 1802 (Pr. No. 3320) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act reforming the law on medical professional liability; providing for patient safety and reporting; establishing the Patient Safety Authority and the Patient Safety Trust Fund; abrogating regulations; providing for medical professional liability informed consent, damages, expert qualifications, limitations of actions and medical records; establishing the Interbranch Commission on Venue; providing for medical professional liability insurance; establishing the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund; providing for medical professional liability claims; establishing the Joint Underwriting Association; regulating medical professional liability insurance; providing for medical licensure regulation; providing for administration; imposing penalties; and making repeals.

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-42

Armstrong	Holl	Mowery	Stout
Bodack	Hughes	Murphy	Tartaglione
Boscola	Jubelirer	Musto	Thompson
Brightbill	Kasunic	O'Pake	Wagner
Conti	Kitchen	Orie	Wenger
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	White, Donald
Earll	LaValle	Rhoades	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Lemmond	Robbins	Williams, Anthony H.
Fumo	Logan	Scarnati	Wozniak
Gerlach	Madigan	Schwartz	
Greenleaf	Mellow	Stack	

NAY-6

Corman	Piccola	Waugh
Dent	Tomlinson	Williams, Constance

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.

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL AMENDED

SB 391 (Pr. No. 404) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Adult Offenders; providing for the form of the compact; imposing additional powers and duties on the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Compact Administrator; and making a repeal.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator BRIGHTBILL offered the following amendment No. A0561:

Amend Sec. 2, page 19, by inserting between lines 17 and 18:
Section D. Extradition

The duly accredited officers of a sending state may at all times enter a receiving state, and there apprehend and retake any person on probation or parole. For that purpose, no formalities will be required other than establishing the authority of the officer and the identity of the person to be retaken. All legal requirements to extradition of fugitives from justice are hereby expressly waived on the part of states party hereto as to such persons. If at the time when a state seeks to retake a probationer or parolee, there should be pending against him within the receiving state any criminal charge, or he is suspected of having committed within such state a criminal offense, he shall not be retaken without the consent of the receiving state until discharged from prosecution or from imprisonment for such offense. The duly accredited officers of the sending state will be permitted to transport prisoners being retaken through any and all states parties to this compact without interference.

Amend Sec. 4, page 26, lines 2 and 3, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

Section 4. State council and compact administrator.

(a) State Council.—Consistent with Article IV of the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Adult Offenders, there is hereby established the State Council for Interstate Adult Offender Supervision. The council shall consist of nine members, seven of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. At least two members shall be judges of courts of record of this Commonwealth and at least one shall be a county chief probation officer, a representative from the executive branch of government, a representative of victims groups and the Compact Administrator. The President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint a member of the General Assembly to serve as a member of the council. The term of a member of the council hereafter appointed, except to fill a vacancy, shall be for four years and until a successor has been appointed, but in no event more than 90 days beyond the expiration of the appointed term. The term of a member of the council who is appointed by virtue of serving as a member of the General Assembly, as a judge or as a county chief probation officer shall continue only as long as the individual remains in that office. A vacancy occurring in an office of a member of the council by expiration of term or for any other reason shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the term.

(b) Appointment of administrator.—The compact administrator shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve as a member of the State Council for the Supervision of Adult Offenders and shall serve on the Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision established

pursuant to the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Adult Offenders.

(c) Compensation and expenses of administrator.—The compact administrator who represents this State, as

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1013 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL AMENDED

HB 1157 (Pr. No. 2572) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for the definition of "tax collector" or "elected tax collector"; and authorizing agreements for joint tax collection districts.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator BRIGHTBILL offered the following amendment No. A0570:

Amend Title, page 1, line 9, by striking out "and"

Amend Title, page 1, line 10, by removing the period after "districts" and inserting: ; and further providing for delinquent tax collectors.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

Without objection, the bill, as amended, was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1546 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS REREPORTED FROM COMMITTEE AS AMENDED OVER IN ORDER

SB 206 and HB 1469 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 106, HB 235, SB 271, SB 462 and SB 874 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator BRIGHTBILL.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 1225 (Pr. No. 1624) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further defining "vehicle"; defining "electric personal assistive mobility device" or "EPAMD"; and further providing for driving upon sidewalk.

Upon motion of Senator BRIGHTBILL, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 391 (Pr. No. 1720) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Compact for the Supervision of Adult Offenders; providing for the form of the compact; imposing additional powers and duties on the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Compact Administrator; and making a repeal.

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

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

Table with 4 columns of names: Armstrong, Bodack, Boscola, Brightbill, Conti, Corman, Costa, Dent, Earl, Erickson, Fumo, Gerlach, Greenleaf, Holl, Hughes, Jubelirer, Kasunic, Kitchen, Kukovich, LaValle, Lemmond, Logan, Madigan, Mellow, Mowery, Murphy, Musto, O'Pake, Ori, Piccola, Punt, Rhoades, Robbins, Scarnati, Schwartz, Stack, Stout, Tartaglione, Thompson, Tomlinson, Wagner, Waugh, Wenger, White, Donald, White, Mary Jo, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Constance, Wozniak

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 1157 (Pr. No. 3319) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 25, 1945 (P.L.1050, No.394), known as the Local Tax Collection Law, further providing for the definition of "tax collector" or "elected tax collector"; authorizing agreements for joint tax collection districts; and further providing for delinquent tax collectors.

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-48

Table with 4 columns of names: Armstrong, Bodack, Boscola, Brightbill, Conti, Corman, Costa, Dent, Earl, Erickson, Fumo, Gerlach, Greenleaf, Holl, Hughes, Jubelirer, Kasunic, Kitchen, Kukovich, LaValle, Lemmond, Logan, Madigan, Mellow, Mowery, Murphy, Musto, O'Pake, Ori, Piccola, Punt, Rhoades, Robbins, Scarnati, Schwartz, Stack, Stout, Tartaglione, Thompson, Tomlinson, Wagner, Waugh, Wenger, White, Donald, White, Mary Jo, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Constance, Wozniak

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.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS LINCOLN DAY ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes, on a very special occasion, the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Erickson.

Senator ERICKSON. Mr. President, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln. There are so many stories to share about him on his birthday: that he was the only President to hold a patent on a device to float riverboats over shoals, that the first test of his leadership was as a 23-year-old Illinois militia captain protecting an American Indian from death at the hands of troops seeking revenge for an earlier conflict.

So many events that shaped the man, I would like to use this occasion to take us back 140 years to the fall of 1862. It was an extraordinarily difficult year for President Lincoln. People were not happy with the progress of the Civil War. His party would not fare too well in that year's elections. When asked how he felt, he said, "I feel somewhat like the boy in Kentucky who stubbed his toe while running to see his sweetheart. ...too big to cry, and far too badly hurt to laugh."

Pennsylvanians, too, were not happy with the progress of the war. Robert E. Lee and Jeb Stuart were conducting raids into the Commonwealth. The President was requesting States to provide ever more troops. Pennsylvania's elected officials were under pressure from their constituents, and they in turn pressured the President. Tensions ran high, but out of this would come a President and a war with a moral purpose, and Pennsylvania would play a historical role.

That year the nation's governors had called Lincoln to speedily crush the rebellion. Lincoln knew he needed more troops and seized the opportunity, replying that he was fully concurring in the wisdom of the views expressed and immediately requesting to furnish 300,000 additional men for combat. Pennsylvania responded to the President's call by sending 40,000 troops. A month later, Lincoln again requested 300,000 soldiers. Again, Pennsylvania answered Lincoln's call; another 32,000 men were drafted for the war. In each county the draft was administered by members of both parties. It was unpopular but bipartisan. The Union now had the men to fight the war, but many felt it still lacked a purpose, a moral purpose that would cut through the political and ideological smoke and provide clarity.

Lincoln had been working on an executive proclamation that would declare freedom for all slaves. He quietly revealed his intention to some of the north's political leaders. However, Lincoln's idea was not universally supported by northern powerbrokers. This is a painful historical reality. But the President knew it was morally right. At the time, planning was underway for a conference of governors to be held in Altoona on September 24, 1862. The conference was inspired by a letter written by Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin telling the Governor of Massachusetts that the time had come to give the war a definite aim and end, and that the governors of the loyal States should take prompt, united, and decided action in the matter. The two governors decided to go to see Lincoln in search of a definite aim for the conflict. Lincoln discussed with him his idea for an Emancipation Proclamation. Two days before the Altoona conference, Lincoln gave public notice of the preliminary proclamation.

On September 24, 14 governors or their proxies assembled in Altoona. In the morning, they took a sightseeing tour around the famous Horseshoe Bend. They met in sessions that lasted past midnight. Although Lincoln's proclamation was criticized, mainly by those who did not think it went far enough to end slavery, the governors were true to their word and signed on. Pennsylvania Governor Curtin was assigned the task of drafting an address from the loyal governors to the President. The document promised Lincoln full support without hesitation, asked for a large military force of military reserves, admonished him to pursue the war with utmost vigor, and thanked him for freeing the slaves, if only in words. On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln officially issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Simon Cameron, who lived a few blocks from here, compared the President's decree to religious principles that would work silently, quietly, but surely upon the hearts of thousands and bring help and strength to our cause when we least expect and most need it. The Civil War, which already had a military aim and a constitutional aim, now had a moral aim.

Lincoln said, "I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me." Among those events was that 1862 gathering in the city of Altoona, where it was decided that America's bloodiest conflict must have a definite aim and end. We could say that it is our duty today as leaders to, as Simon Cameron put it, use the power of moral principles that work silently, quietly, but surely upon the hearts of thousands to today complete the unfinished task of healing wounds and bringing Pennsylvanians and Americans together as one, to promote tolerance and peace, not just in Pennsylvania, but in our great country.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Senator Erickson and appreciates the recognition of the great city of Altoona in hosting the War Governors' Conference, and we invite all of you to come sightseeing, as well.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, at this time, I request a brief recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held immediately in the Rules room at the rear of the Senate Chamber.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Brightbill requests a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations to be held immediately in the Rules room at the rear of the Senate Chamber. Without objection, the Senate will stand in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSITION PLAN RESOLUTION A ADOPTED, WITH EXCEPTIONS

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 4 of the Calendar, **Surplus Property Disposition Plan, Resolution No. A**, entitled:

Resolved, That Surplus Property Disposition Plan No. 1 of 2001, transmitted by the Governor under The Administrative Code of 1929 to the General Assembly under date of December 12, 2001 which is incorporated herein by reference be approved.

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, I call up, on page 4 of today's Calendar, Surplus Property Disposition Plan, Resolution A, and I move the Senate adopt Resolution A, approving items No. 3-7 as listed in the table of contents for Surplus Property Disposition Plan 1 of 2001.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion to adopt Surplus Property Disposition Plan, Resolution A, as amended by stated exceptions?

Senator BRIGHTBILL. For the information of the Members, items 1 and 2 are the Haverford State Hospital and Western Center, respectively. By letter dated May 23, 2001, the Senate Committee on State Government, through Senator Lemmond as chairman, recommended withdrawing these two parcels from consideration. In a letter dated December 12, 2001, to Governor Schweiker, Secretary Logan acknowledged the removal of these two parcels from the plan. Governor Schweiker also acknowledged the removal of these two properties from the plan in his communication to the Senate.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the motion to adopt Surplus Property Disposition Plan, Resolution A, as amended by stated exceptions?

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

YEA-48

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Mowery	Stout
Bodack	Holl	Murphy	Tartaglione
Boscola	Hughes	Musto	Thompson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	O'Pake	Tomlinson
Conti	Kasunic	Orie	Wagner
Corman	Kitchen	Piccola	Waugh
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Dent	LaValle	Rhoades	White, Donald
Earll	Lemmond	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Logan	Scarnati	Williams, Anthony H.
Fumo	Madigan	Schwartz	Williams, Constance
Gerlach	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE

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

SB 1169 (Pr. No. 1714) (Rereported) (Concurrence)

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Indiana County, certain lands situate in the Borough of Indiana, Indiana County; and to grant and convey to Collier Development Company, Inc., certain land situate in Collier Township, Allegheny County.

HB 1758 (Pr. No. 3240) (Rereported) (Concurrence)

An Act designating a bridge on SR 1038, over the Allegheny River in Armstrong County, as the Kittanning Citizens' Bridge; designating a bridge on SR 1017, over the north branch of Tunkhannock Creek in

Wyoming County, as the Nicholson Veterans Memorial Bridge; redesignating the Apollo Bridge carrying SR 66 between Oklahoma Borough, Westmoreland County, and Apollo Borough, Armstrong County, as the Leonard C. Miller Bridge; and making a repeal.

RESOLUTIONS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator BRIGHTBILL, from the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, reported the following resolutions:

SR 164 (Pr. No. 1713)

A Resolution designating the week of February 10 through 16, 2002, as "Career and Technical Education Week" in Pennsylvania.

HR 416 (Pr. No. 3238)

A Concurrent Resolution honoring the United States Military Academy on its 200th anniversary.

The PRESIDENT. The resolutions will be placed on the Calendar.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 4

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 165, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 1 of Supplemental Calendar No. 4, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 165, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution urging the President of the United States to act quickly on the recommendations of the International Trade Commission regarding the domestic steel industry.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator MURPHY. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced a concurrent resolution urging President Bush to act quickly on the recommendations of the International Trade Commission in regard to our steel industry, and today I ask for the support of my colleagues.

You may have noticed that I said our steel industry. Steel production has played a key role in the Commonwealth for more than a century, and regardless of where you live in this great Commonwealth, the steel industry has touched and shaped your life. True, the legacy of the steel industry is most noticeable around Pittsburgh and Johnstown, Steelton and Bethlehem. In those communities, the mills provided jobs that welcomed new immigrants and were passed from generation to generation as an honorable family tradition. Even beyond those mill workers and their families, the steel industry energized the businesses that provided jobs for millions of other Pennsylvanians as well. The steel industry grew and thrived in relationship with other businesses and benefitted Pennsylvania's coal miners and the

longshoremen in our great port cities. Pennsylvania's railroads hauled coke to blast furnaces and transported finished beams that formed the framework of skyscrapers and bridges across the nation.

In time of war, Pennsylvania's steel factories and their workers formed the arsenal of democracy that restored freedom and peace to Europe and the Far East. But now, Mr. President, Pennsylvania steel mills are fighting a different type of war. It is no secret that our steel industry is under attack. We have known that for nearly 30 years. We did not just wake up one day to find freighters filled with foreign steel to invade our country, and perhaps we should not be surprised that plants like the shuttered Bethlehem Steel complex along the Lehigh River are now silent monuments of a time when Pennsylvania was a worldwide leader in steel production.

Over the past 4 years, 28 steel companies, half of all active steel companies in the United States, have filed for bankruptcy. More particularly, a troubling example, the LTV is terminating pension and health care plans for their 13,000 employees. So is this because of the workers? No. Is it because of the quality of the steel? No. It is because we cannot compete in today's market that is causing problems for our workers. So should we give up and move on? Not at all. The steel industry remains a vital part of our economy and national security. It provides quality family-sustaining jobs for 60,000 Pennsylvanians, as well as health care benefits and pensions for an additional 150,000 families. Instead, we must work within our system to ensure that steelmakers have the benefit of a fair and equitable marketplace. It is past time for the Federal government to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure this level playing field becomes an international reality. We have an opportunity to facilitate the development of a globally competitive steel industry, but only if we take long overdue action. That is where the ITC report comes in.

After a lengthy and detailed review, the commission presented its findings and recommendations to President Bush last year. The panel and its individual members provided a number of recommendations, and we would be here quite a while if I discussed them all individually. But I urge anybody who wishes to review them in more detail to visit the International Trade Commission's Web site. But let me offer one particularly troubling statement from the beginning of the report which states the problem all too clearly. Quoting from the United States International Trade Commission, they say: "...that certain steel products are being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury to the domestic industry...." These products are plate, hot-rolled sheet, cold-rolled sheet, coated sheet, hot-rolled bar, cold-finished bar, and a host of other steel products which are being dumped into our country by foreign countries.

President George W. Bush said this: "If you're worried about the security of the country and you become over-reliant upon foreign sources of steel, it can easily affect the capacity of our military to be well supplied. Steel is an important jobs issue; it is also an important national security issue. I am here to trumpet one of the great values of America. That's the enterprise of the American worker, the hardworking American citizens who make

this economy go. And those are the steelworkers of America. I appreciate what you do for our country."

And from then Governor Tom Ridge, in September 2001, he said, "We must...act quickly. I don't need to remind this panel that steel is an essential element of our military defenses - from the transporting of troops to the latest smart weapon technology. When the civilian market is threatened by the glut of foreign imports, the military's capability is put at risk."

So, Mr. President, we as a Chamber can stand together as the advocates of Pennsylvania's steelworkers and their families and the companies to call upon the Federal government to review and implement the International Trade Commission's recommendations and restore fairness to fair trade. Therefore, I call upon my colleagues to send a clear message to Washington of support for Pennsylvania's steelworkers by supporting this resolution.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, I rise to support Senator Murphy in his resolution, and this is not limited just to western Pennsylvania. USX has a plant in Fairless Hills where at one time we employed almost 10,000 steelworkers. Over the last 2 years, 20,000 steelworkers have been laid off, and the number of companies that have filed for bankruptcy in Pennsylvania has reached 18. Steel prices have fallen by \$85 a ton, or 22 percent since May 2000. The Pennsylvania steel industry saw a 17-percent drop in its employment, and five steel companies right now operate under bankruptcy in Pennsylvania.

This is an issue of fairness, Mr. President. The Pennsylvania steel industry and the steelworkers in Pennsylvania are willing to compete with anybody, but when you sell steel at less than what it costs to produce it, they cannot compete. It is time to ask the Federal government to step in and intervene. We have asked for this for several years now, and I urge everyone to support Senator Murphy's resolution.

Thank you.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

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

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 5

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 1758 (Pr. No. 3240) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating a bridge on SR 1038, over the Allegheny River in Armstrong County, as the Kittanning Citizens' Bridge; designating a bridge on SR 1017, over the north branch of Tunkhannock Creek in Wyoming County, as the Nicholson Veterans Memorial Bridge; redesignating the Apollo Bridge carrying SR 66 between Oklahoma

Borough, Westmoreland County, and Apollo Borough, Armstrong County, as the Leonard C. Miller Bridge; and making a repeal.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments to House Bill No. 1758?

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate amendments to House Bill No. 1758.

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

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

YEA-48

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Mowery	Stout
Bodack	Holl	Murphy	Tartaglione
Boscola	Hughes	Musto	Thompson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	O'Pake	Tomlinson
Conti	Kasunic	Orie	Wagner
Corman	Kitchen	Piccola	Waugh
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Dent	LaValle	Rhoades	White, Donald
Earl	Lemmond	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Logan	Scarnati	Williams, Anthony H.
Fumo	Madigan	Schwartz	Williams, Constance
Gerlach	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak

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 1169 (Pr. No. 1714) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Indiana County, certain lands situate in the Borough of Indiana, Indiana County; and to grant and convey to Collier Development Company, Inc., certain land situate in Collier Township, Allegheny County.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1169?

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 1169.

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

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

YEA-48

Armstrong	Greenleaf	Mowery	Stout
Bodack	Holl	Murphy	Tartaglione
Boscola	Hughes	Musto	Thompson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	O'Pake	Tomlinson
Conti	Kasunic	Orie	Wagner
Corman	Kitchen	Piccola	Waugh
Costa	Kukovich	Punt	Wenger
Dent	LaValle	Rhoades	White, Donald
Earl	Lemmond	Robbins	White, Mary Jo
Erickson	Logan	Scarnati	Williams, Anthony H.
Fumo	Madigan	Schwartz	Williams, Constance
Gerlach	Mellow	Stack	Wozniak

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 RESOLUTION No. 164, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 2 of Supplemental Calendar No. 5, Senate Resolution No. 164, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of February 10 through 16, 2002, as "Career and Technical Education Week" in Pennsylvania.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 416, ADOPTED

Senator BRIGHTBILL, without objection, called up from page 2 of Supplemental Calendar No. 5, House Concurrent Resolution No. 416, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution honoring the United States Military Academy on its 200th anniversary.

On the question,
Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in House Concurrent Resolution No. 416.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Tomlinson.

Senator TOMLINSON. Mr. President, in a year that has seen members of the United States military show great acts of heroism and selflessness, it is fitting that we honor one of the country's esteemed military academies as it marks its 200th anniversary.

On March 16, 1802, President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Since then, its graduates distinguished themselves in all nations' wars, serving as leaders in the military and many walks of life. A favorite expression at West Point is: Much of the history we teach was made by the people we taught.

Among those who served in the long grey line were astronaut Buzz Armstrong, Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Thomas Stonewall Jackson, George S. Patton, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, and Norman Schwarzkopf.

A number of the noted academy graduates were born here in Pennsylvania or have significant ties to the Commonwealth. They include Major General George Meade, who commanded one of Pennsylvania's brigades during the Civil War and later became commander of the Army of the Potomac, and General Matthew Ridgway, who commanded the 82nd Airborne during World War II and later became Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in 1952.

Because of the superb education and leadership experience provided at West Point, graduates historically have been sought at high levels of civilian and military leadership positions. Their numbers include U.S. Presidents, several ambassadors, State governors, judges, cabinet members, educators, astronauts, engineers, and corporate executives. Its alumni include many dedicated legislators, including my colleague, Senator Bob Robbins, class of 1966; State Representative Edward Lucyk, class of 1964; Representative John Pippy, class of 1992; and I have to mention a great friend of mine from Bucks County, Charlie Jarvis, class of 1969, who was a great football player for West Point. Their dedication to public service and their Commonwealth reflects the timeless West Point motto: duty, honor, and service. Guided by this mission, the military academy is poised confident to provide the Army and the nation for the third century of service.

The United States military has a long history of one of our nation's greatest institutions, producing leaders in all areas and helping in the defense of our country in both war and in peace. Therefore, I urge the Senate to join me in supporting this resolution and in congratulating the military academy and all its graduates as it celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding. Both the institution and its alumni have made outstanding contributions to this nation in those 200 years, and will do so for years to come.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate concur in the resolution?

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator ROBBINS, by unanimous consent, called from the table communications from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, recalling the following nominations, which were read by the Clerk as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

February 11, 2002

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated October 30, 2001 for the appointment of Stephanie Moore, 40 Red Barberry Drive, Eters 17319, York County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, as a member of the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure, to serve for a term of three years or until her successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice John F. Yaninek, Esquire, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

February 12, 2002

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated October 29, 2001, for the appointment of Jaime Gibson, 10 B West Beale Avenue, Enola 17025, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Athletic Commission, to serve for a term of four years and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice George Bochetto, Esquire, Philadelphia, resigned.

I respectfully request the return to me of the official message of nomination on the premises.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNOR

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

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

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

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

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

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

December 28, 2001

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, Sarah Philyaw, 22 South 22nd Street, Apt. 401, Philadelphia 19103, Philadelphia County, First Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2002, and until her successor is appointed and qualified, vice Charles W. Pruitt, Jr., Pittsburgh, deceased.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
COUNCIL ON AGING

December 28, 2001

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, Jules Rosen, M.D., 1505 Windsor Court, Pittsburgh 15241, Allegheny County, Thirty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Council on Aging, to serve until October 8, 2003, and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA
FISH AND BOAT COMMISSION

January 10, 2002

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, Richard Czop, 724 Black Rock Road, Collegeville 19426, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, to serve for a term of eight years or until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Donald Lacy, Reading, whose term expired.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE
HARNESS RACING COMMISSION

December 17, 2001

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, C. Edward Rogers, Jr., 200 Westview Drive, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Harness Racing Commission, to serve for a term of three years and until his

successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

January 17, 2002

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, Daniel J. Dahlkemper, 530 Seminole Drive, Erie 16505, Erie County, Forty-ninth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, to serve for a term of three years and until his successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE TAX
EQUALIZATION BOARD

December 19, 2001

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, Edward F. Fosnaught, R.D. 1 Box 358, Ellwood City 16117, Lawrence County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Tax Equalization Board, to serve until November 14, 2003 or until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Trevor Edwards, Esquire, Harrisburg, whose term expired.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE FAYETTE COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

January 17, 2002

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, Jackson B. Thomas, (Republican), 6 Burlington Avenue, Uniontown 15401, Fayette County, Thirty-second Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Fayette County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2003, and until his successor is appointed and qualified, vice Roy B. Leer, Markleysburg, whose term expired.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

MEMBER OF THE LACKAWANNA COUNTY
BOARD OF ASSISTANCE

January 17, 2002

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, Josephine B. Mazza, (Republican), 120 East Garfield Avenue, Carbondale 18407, Lackawanna County, Twenty-second Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Lackawanna County Board of Assistance, to serve until December 31, 2004, and until her successor is appointed and qualified.

Mark S. Schweiker
Governor

NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Vollrath, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Strawser, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Galbreath, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Kulp, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Jackson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kellenberger, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Duke, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Long, Mr. and Mrs. William Feller, Zachary D. Winnerling, Nicholas Yoder, Carl W. Cook, Ross Evan Kleinhaus and to George Joseph Grove III by Senator Armstrong.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Philip F. Lynch, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Clark, Sr., Liz Yeaworth and to Matthew M. Radigan by Senator Bell.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Vogel, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bodell, Jeffrey T. McDonald, Harriet A. Lisowski and to Mark Palandro and all other members of the Verona Police Department by Senator Bodack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Domenic Vicario, William Bambu, Hanh Nguyen, Amanda Kinder, Alicia Alcamo, Kimberly Carrell-Smith, Gail R. Sakovics, Phyllis Walsh, Jane Pearson, Daniel V. Reynolds, the Honorable Charles C. Angelini, Travis Mohr, William C. Rybak, Bethlehem Clubmen's Association, the Greek-American Community of the City of Bethlehem and to Celtic Fest, Inc., of Bethlehem, by Senator Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Girl Scouts Great Valley Council and to the Wheels of Time Street Rod Association by Senators Boscola and Dent.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Henry Homan, Celia M. Heagy, Anita Haulman, Adrienne Mickucki and to Charles W. Wertz by Senator Brightbill.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Greg Adams, Ben Presti, Gayman Elementary School of Danboro and to the Quakertown Band by Senator Conti.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. James E. Miller, Joshua William Merdes and to Cody W. Strouse by Senator Corman.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Teresa Mai, Kenneth L. Kuiros, Bertie Hamlette Jeffress, the Reverend

Chester Arthur Allen and to the Woodland Hills High School Football Team by Senator Costa.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to April Daugherty, George Jay Ferrio III, Ryan Tomkinson, John Stoffa, Richard Biolsi, Dale Breyfogle, Esther Casteline, Ryan Delgrosso, Andrew Michael Henry, Jeanette Eichenwald, Laura Victoria Smith, Abram Samuels, Hanover Elementary School of Bethlehem and to the Municipal Opera Company of Allentown by Senator Dent.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Amy Holovaty and to David Jones by Senators Dent and Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Diane Scott, Helene Whitaker, Suzanne Kresge and to Mireille Briane by Senators Dent, Rhoades, and Boscola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Zachary Shufran, James B. Clint, Christina Pherson and to Anthony Michael Rodland by Senator Earll.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Daniel Riehs, Jennifer Gordon and to Dominick J. DiBella by Senator Erickson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Susan Paul, Michael DiNapoli and to Michael Anderson by Senator Fumo.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to William H. Hairston, Bradley D. Prizer, Scott Vosbury, Andrew Bohl, Jason Salerno, Bryan Kaehn, Jonathan Godlewski, Gerald G. Richards and to the Emmaus High School Girls' Field Hockey Team by Senator Gerlach.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the citizens of Berks County by Senators Gerlach, Brightbill, and O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John Dixon, Gary O'Connor, Peter Patzer, Robert Thomas, Walter West, Andrew L. Collier, Bradley C. Pennington and to Matthew E. Nolan by Senator Greenleaf.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. John Kerstetter, Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. Fenstermaker, Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Wydila, Honorable Merle H. and Mrs. Helen Phillips, Terry Kissinger, C. Dennis Fahringer, Benjamin Adam James, Matthew Robert Stone, Bishop Lawrence F. Schott Council 628 Knights of Columbus, of Mount Carmel, and to Berger's Trinity Peace Religious Gift Store of Elysburg by Senator Helfrick.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Anthony Bauman, Ryan S. Owsiany, William J. Cukierski, Jonathan H. Dougherty, Dennis J. McGowan, Matthew R. Morvin, Jr., Joshua D. Traylor, John H. Walfish, Michael K. Lease, Kyle D. Brasch, Leonard Murphy, Andrew J. Reber, Shawn M. Moyer, Thomas J. Muhl, Michael Flatley, Justin Donald Bradley, Deven Owsiany, Katie Morton and to the Pennsylvania Arts Alliance for Arts Education of Immaculata College by Senator Holl.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Yvonne M. Hayden by Senator Hughes.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Cub Scout Pack 189 of Philadelphia by Senators Hughes and Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Domenico Centi, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Wilber Thomas Brubaker, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Beckwith, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Paisley, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Myers, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cogan, Mr. and Mrs. George Thompson,

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Steach, Mr. and Mrs. James H. Page, Karen S. Kramer, Daniel L. Varner, Della Nearhoof, the Reverend James R. Hanly, Franklin R. Long, Robert P. Krubitzer, John F. Kulick and to Dr. Louis W. Sullivan by Senator Jubelirer.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Zachary M. Hittie, William John Zubek, Christopher Joseph Roman, Shane Rishel and to Jamie King by Senator Kasunic.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to John Hardy Barbour, Jimmy Oliver, Nadine Barbour, Renetta Wilson, Derra Jones, Pansy Mae Pippens, Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations of Philadelphia and to the Berean Institute of Philadelphia by Senator Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Robert Morris Seibel, Carl Elmer Seibel, James K. Schmidt, Eric J. Batchelor, Ray Zsolcsak, Earl Noel, Michael Mogush and to Florence Noel by Senator Kukovich.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Marion L. Furlong and Lark Enterprises, Inc., of New Castle, and to Hadassah Women's Zionist Organization of America by Senator LaValle.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Reverend and Mrs. Andrew Pillarella, Mr. and Mrs. Aloys J. Baloga, Pearl Banning, Kenneth E. Hawk, Nick Hollock, William Kelly, Dr. Joseph Buckey, Thomas Lavan, Sandee Ford, Irene Pieretti, Robert Page, Charles Dennis Connelly, Carla Pomicter, Robert Arthur Brown, Mary Schiller, Matilda Croom, Albert Oberholtzer, Lillian Plum, Michael W. Gursky, Pike County 4-H, Susquehanna County 4-H, Wayne County 4-H and to the Dallas Rotary Club by Senator Lemmond.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Ronald W. Myers, the Honorable James DeMuzzio, Joseph Pantalone, William E. Fekety, Sr., Dan Wassel, Twin Rivers Council of Governments and to Mailing Systems PA by Senator Logan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mohny, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Broughton, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Klees, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Everitt, Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Confair, Mr. and Mrs. John McNamara, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Peterman, Mr. and Mrs. William Mead, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Blow, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn May, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Woodside, Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Blaker, Mr. and Mrs. William Huff, Mr. and Mrs. Victor I. Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Lucian J. Huss, Luke Andrew Howland, Andrew Paul Boyer, Jimmy Bender, the Honorable Evan Squires Williams, Mark Hartman, George Benditt, Peter Baldo, Bentley Creek Wesleyan Church, Montoursville Lions Club, Youth Leader of Tomorrow candidates and to the Church of Saint Luke of Jersey Shore by Senator Madigan.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Joseph P. Bannon, Christopher Patchoski, Bernard Banks, Jr., Cecelia Lynett-Haggerty, Edward J. Lynett, Jr., William R. Lynett, George V. Lynett, Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania and to Dunmore Roofing and Supply Co., Inc., by Senator Mellow.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Thomas J. Allardyce by Senators Mellow and Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Carol Lynn Davis, Geoffrey David Betz, Douglas Lomire, Helen M. Yohn,

Dr. Joseph John Matunis, Ben Kain, George B. Thomas, John S. Greecher, Walter F. Williams, Patricia S. Carlucci and to Theo A. Kotjarapoglus by Senator Mowery.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Troy Kaczorowski, Steven G. Revitsky, Adam Michael Miller, Joshua David Ackman, Dr. Larry Snyder, Jonathan A. Milliron, Bryan Dapper, Dr. William A. Pope, Nicole Yagelski, Loretta Warsow, Bonnie Doran, David Michael Moehring, Stephen Randal Loeffler and to Jon Travis Dunham by Senator Murphy.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mike Bisignani, Tom Mathis, Tom Madden, Gary Scheimer, Tom Shaheen, Don Kelly and to Duane Moriarity by Senators Murphy, Orie, and Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Singer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, Peter Joseph Perno, Raymond J. McElligott, Elizabeth J. Latsko, Wayne T. Kogoy, Jr., Joshua D. Jones, Albert F. Clark, Gary Michael Collins, Jr., Fanny Rokus, Jamie Joseph Bonavina, Daniel Richard Bonavina, Timothy Edward Roberts, Esther McCoola Rish, Michael Kociban, Theodore Dembowski and to Robert John Powell by Senator Musto.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Irvin Cohen, Joseph McLaughlin, Terrell L. Weaver, Charles McCreary, Exeter Black Knights Basketball Team, citizens of Berks County, Narrow Fabric Industries Corporation of Wyomissing and to the citizens of Reading and Berks County on earning the title of Baseballtown by Senator O'Pake.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Teen Challenge Training Center of Rehrersburg by Senators O'Pake and Brightbill.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Perroz, Mr. and Mrs. John Graznak, Mr. and Mrs. John Martorano, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hanulik, Sr., Sara E. DeRiggi, Janelle E. Hestin, Shannon K. Greaves, Stacy de las Alas, Dr. Susan Frantz, Kristen Roskov, Eddielou Jarnevich, Christina M. Cowan, Emily B. LeRoy, Brittany M. Jakim, Kristin E. Mariotti, Shannon L. Metsger, Melinda L. Sager, Rachel C. Zagorac, Stacey Huston, Dana Peterson, Dale Allerton, Kenneth Moser, Robbie Vidt, Jeffrey Kissel, Edward Hardy, Thomas Crull, Raymond Varuolo, Arthur Schulties, Katherine Oswald, Margaret Trevanion, Lou Ann Shaffer, Marlene Goodwin, Jane Trombetta, Patricia Smith, Irene Thompson, Mary Barlett, Barbara Bishop, Deborah Candiello, Leslie Connors, Lynne Gloor, Beverly Keller, Dorothy Kirwan, Jean Raggiunti, Cynthia Nock, Patricia Auld, Alice Chiplock, Jerome Bettis, Barbara Aippersbach, Brenda Wasdi, Margaret Turner, Sharon Hoey, Monika McCormick, Carol McIntyre, Renee Milchak, Roxane Moody, Theresa Profozich, Barbara Hummel, Martha Wobb, Catherine Karner, Stanlee White, Cheryl Kennedy, Gloria Leszczynski, Alice Renaldi, Michele Obrien, Cynthia Tomazich, Janet Smith, Joanne Shore, Geraldine Sherlock, Linda Ross, Barbara Furge, Marianne Easton, Heather Waibel, Geraldine Itri, Mary Linton, Maria Mason, Darlene Loebig, Viola Ricci Thompson, Barbara Wachter, Marshall Township Volunteer Fire Company, Crisis Center North of Pittsburgh, Pine-Richland Youth Center, Carmody's Restaurant of Sewickley and to La Roche College of Pittsburgh by Senator Orie.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Sheaffer, Alice Peters, Emma A. Pettis, Ann J. Weisenford and to Three Mile Island Alert by Senator Piccola.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Robert J. Eyer, Jr., and to Mary Ruth Collins by Senator Punt.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Joseph J. Hammond, Stephen Fuller, Bradley J. Epler, Joseph T. Nagle, Gerald Manbeck, Chad Kilby, Brian Fretz, Joseph P. Orsulak, Jean Onuschak, John W. Hetherington, Susan E. Graver-Koch, Linda A. Fetter and to the Schuylkill Historical Fire Society of Shenadoah by Senator Rhoades.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Wesley A. Hoagland, Jack Kerins, Hazel Irene Julian, Jeremy Adam Graff, Jesi Christiansen and to Raymond C. Greene by Senator Robbins.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Pauline Higie by Senator Scarnati.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. Earle Noble Wagner, Joanne Shane Plummer and to Anita T. Conner by Senator Schwartz.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Christian J. Deck, William Troy and to Eva E. Streff by Senator Stack.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mary Ambrose Hicks, Alexandra Lutsion, Washington High School Football Team and to the citizens of the Borough of Donora and Our Lady of the Valley Parish of Donora by Senator Stout.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the City of Philadelphia Fire Department by Senator Tartaglione.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to the honorees of Firefighter Recognition Day by Senators Tartaglione and Kitchen.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Matt Lewis, A. J. Olson, Ryan M. J. Hagerty, David Graf, Niklas Searles, Matthew David Whitehead, James Gordon Bell, Gerald T. Cox and to Brian G. Jefferes by Senator Thompson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Christa Bain and to the Gibson Road Antique Fire Association of Bensalem by Senator Tomlinson.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Stephen Helf, Michael Fenton, Patrick A. Nau, Ian Miller, Steve Homer, Corey A. Campbell, Sean Cardello, Michael C. Hajduk and to Cody W. Jones by Senator Wagner.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Dr. John Dooley, Zachary M. Ausherman, Melissa Alwine, Brock Eugene Swartz, Jane E. Nelson, Robin S. Wales, Sandy Webb, Keith McFatrige, Wayne High, Bruce Grove, Ben Grove, Troy Testerman, members of the Delta-Cardiff Volunteer Fire Company, Stewart's Mower Sales and Service of Spring Grove and to the First Moravian Church of York by Senator Waugh.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Kyle Phillip Louie, E. Rodney Bongart, Travis Fisher and to Amber Harven by Senator Wenger.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Saylor, Mr. and Mrs. Laird McKinney, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Starr, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. J. Junior Troutman, Carey and Troy Holmquist, Leah Johns Giles, Adam Chverchko, Brian Matthew Lezanic, Daisy Stuchell, Katie

Kasubick, Kiski Area Intermediate Eighth Grade Chorus, Kiski Area Intermediate School Flute and Clarinet Choirs and to the Ben Franklin Singers by Senator D. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kenneth Kaufman, Ryan Patrick Righi, Ryan Campbell, Helen A. Lowry Protzman, Andrew J. Chelko, Leonard Z. Rearick, Margaret R. Spence, Dr. T. Audean Duespohl, James R. Aiken, Kyle Cathcart, Donald G. Acquaviva, Jr., Don Montgomery, William A. Walters, David Beers, Marion L. Furlong and Lark Enterprises, Inc., of New Castle, Chartwells of Clarion, Riverhill Battery House of Shippenville and to the Clarion Autumn Leaf Festival by Senator M.J. White.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Serena Spearman and to the Philadelphia Chapter Continental Societies, Inc., by Senator A. H. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Marva Belmonti, Kevin Maguire, Colleen McCabe, Valerie Baron, the Reverend Monsignor James Meehan, the Reverend George Hollingshead, Rabbi Emeritus Henry Cohen and to Washington Fire Company No. 1 of Conshohocken by Senator C. Williams.

Congratulations of the Senate were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harmic, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Wingard, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. George Yutzey, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zimmerman, Reverend and Mrs. Steven Millinder, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Craft, Mr. and Mrs. William Voytas, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cigich, L. Robert Kimball, Joshua W. Chesnutwood, Derek J. Grabelski, Richard E. Cunningham and to Nathan Catanese by Senator Wozniak.

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTIONS

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following resolutions, which were read, considered, and adopted by voice vote:

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Ruth Virginia Miller by Senator Hughes.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Philip Brendan O'Malley and to the family of the late William Reser by Senator Lemmond.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Shirley Suiter, to the family of the late Paul E. Strauss, to the family of the late Barbara Otto Mountain, to the family of the late Maria Haut Terzic and to the family of the late Carol A. Menzel by Senator Orie.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Eugene O. Cook by Senator Piccola.

Condolences of the Senate were extended to the family of the late Reverend Scott Alan Gobbel by Senator Wozniak.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 813, SB 1029, SB 1054, SB 1252, HB 247, HB 481, HB 1171, HB 1655, HB 2129 and HB 2203.

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

The **PRESIDING OFFICER** (Senator Jeffrey E. Piccola)
in the Chair.

BILL SIGNED

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. The Chair wishes to announce
that the following bill was signed by the President in the presence
of the Senate:

SB 1169.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. The Chair recognizes the
gentleman from Cumberland, Senator Mowery.

Senator **MOWERY**. Mr. President, a 1999 study by the
Institute of Medicine indicated that as many as 94,000 patients
a year die in hospitals as a result of medical errors. Some
physicians have questioned the report numbers, but many
acknowledge the number is in the thousands. We have passed
legislation aimed at reducing medical errors and improving
patient safety by requiring hospitals to collect information
regarding medical errors and incidents or near misses, where an
error almost occurred. The information collected will then be
used to develop corrective action plans focused on reducing
errors.

Currently, hospitals report serious events or errors to the
Department of Health, and of course this will continue. However,
there are a lot of incidents or near misses that are not reported
anywhere. By having these near misses reported to a patient
safety committee and then shared with a nonregulatory agency
for analysis, we are hoping to generate data that will be used to
reduce these errors. Here is how it will work:

Every hospital will create a patient safety committee and
encourage reporting, even anonymously, all incidents and near
misses. The patient safety committee and hospital boards will use
reported data to review and improve their systems and reduce
errors. The legislation also creates the patient safety authority,
which will be funded by contributions from hospitals. The
authority will contract with outside agencies for analysis of
serious events and incidents reported by the hospitals, and based
on analysis, the authority will make recommendations to
hospitals to improve patient safety and reduce errors. To
encourage reporting, the work of the patient safety committee is
protected by peer review, meaning its work cannot be used
against the hospital or the doctor in a lawsuit.

Historically, hospitals have been reluctant to report errors to
the Department of Health, the agency that regulates them, fearing
that the information could, sometime in the future, be used
against them. Therefore, to encourage reporting, we are making
error and incident reports go to nonregulatory entities contracted
by the patient safety authority. Hopefully, this will result in
additional data being reported and eventually recommendations
on quality for their improvements.

In developing this legislation, we have worked with
stakeholders, leadership, and the administration. The result is

legislation that improves patient safety and the quality of care
being provided by our hospitals. It is also part of an approach to
reduce medical malpractice costs and includes tort reform and
CAT Fund reform. Medical errors cost lives and increase the cost
of health care. While improving patient safety through the
reduction of medical errors will give some reprieve, full relief
will only come through passing joint initiatives to make medical
malpractice insurance more affordable for doctors and to reform
the tort system.

Finally, the first duty of a hospital, like a physician, is to do
no harm. Too often health care facilities fail in this very primary
responsibility. Pennsylvania hospitals must be much more
aggressive in combating this problem and encouraging the
reporting of errors, near errors, or any situations that could pose
a threat to our patient safety. This legislation will require health
care facilities to put policies in place to do just what we have
talked about. Mr. President, I feel that this being a very important
part of the legislation we just passed is going to make things
much better for the medical community throughout Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The **PRESIDING OFFICER**. The Chair recognizes the
gentleman from Blair, Senator Jubelirer.

The **PRESIDENT** pro tempore. Mr. President, I want to
congratulate Senator Mowery on his remarks. I think they are
very well done and certainly very apropos.

Mr. President, medical malpractice is certainly not a new
subject. In the mid-1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, action was taken or
attempted by this General Assembly. This has always been an
issue with a high degree of difficulty. Consensus has been
illusive. When an agreed-upon answer was pinned down in 1996,
the courts quickly ripped out the heart of it. But economic
conditions and health care consequences have brought us back to
the issue once again.

Mr. President, we have a serious problem with many
contributing factors, only some of which we can control and
presume to fix. Pennsylvania is not an island in this difficulty.
While other States have tried a variety of approaches, not every
one is available to us because of constitutional constraints. There
are numbers supposedly proving every kind of contention. Mr.
President, I am reminded of the observation by a member of
Congress during a budget debate, and I quote, "Torture the
numbers long enough and they will confess to anything,"
unquote. Through all the statistics, through all the arguments, the
bottom line is this: without corrective action, we will have
unacceptable gaps continue to open in the health care system, we
will have holes in coverage in border counties and rural counties,
and we will be maintaining huge disincentives for practitioners
locating here or establishing a practice here.

Mr. President, inaction is not a win for patients, it is not a win
for health care, and it is not a win for Pennsylvania. The stop-gap
action on insurance coverage initiated by the Governor afforded
us the time to put together a prudent and effective series of
measures. There has been extensive negotiation. Every group has
had the chance to enumerate the problems they see in the system
and to offer potential remedies for those problems. In turn, we
have listened to and analyzed those remedies to sift those steps
that are potentially effective from those that are merely
emotionally satisfying.

Mr. President, this is reform. This is a responsible package. This is an aggressive response to a serious situation that would otherwise grow more critical very quickly. There is tort reform here. There is rate stabilization here. There is patient safety here. There is health care accountability here. There is a means for relieving cost pressures on hospitals. There is incentive for companies to begin writing insurance again, and that is the key.

Nearly every piece in here has sparked sharp disagreement. We began by responding to those who wanted to get rid of the CAT Fund. Then some argued that the CAT Fund should be kept. We looked at the experience elsewhere and determined that the existence of the CAT Fund would discourage private insurers from entering the market. Some months ago, USA Today listed the State of West Virginia as the very worst State in the nation with a medical malpractice crisis. They seemed to have solved their crisis, and guess what? They instituted a CAT Fund. We should have told them, Mr. President, we have a used one we could have sold cheaply. Well, I guess it would not have been that cheap. Well, good-by, CAT Fund.

On provision after provision, such practical judgments were made and are reflected in this bill. Because of the economic stakes involved, because of the expectations that have built, because of the emotion wrapped in this issue, it is impossible to craft a popular consensus package. It is quite possible to craft a package that is balanced, that is realistic, that is effective, and perhaps most importantly, constitutional. That is what we have done today, to the benefit of the health care system, the medical professionals, and the patients who deserve quality care. This bill was not about interests losing or failing to triumph, Mr. President, it was about putting up a win for the people and for our State, and that is what we achieved here.

I want to congratulate all those who worked so very, very hard under the most difficult of circumstances, Members and staff who put in hours upon hours upon hours for the people of this State. I think they did the Commonwealth and this General Assembly a great service.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, I would like to make a few brief remarks. The bill that we passed today to deal with the medical malpractice crisis is the result of a lot of work by a lot of people, some of whom are in the House, some of whom are in the Senate.

I would first like to mention Senator Holl. The insurance provisions that are in there were the result of him and his staff. I next would mention Senator Mowery. He made some comments on the floor this evening. He was very instrumental in providing us with the assistance and providing leadership in the patient safety area, and I very much appreciate his staff. Senator Greenleaf and his staff assisted and worked, as well as Senator Gerlach, Senator Thompson, and Senator Erickson, on the provisions to reduce costs related to medical professional liability claims. Senator Mellow and his staff were there week by week, day by day throughout the negotiations. Representative Perzel and his staff also were extremely helpful, as well as representatives of Governor Schweiker, the Governor himself, Commissioner Koken, Dr. Muscalus, and many others.

A product like this really is very much something that becomes a consensus endeavor, and there are many people, really too many to mention, who deserve a lot of credit. But there are two I do want to mention by name. One is Andrew Crompton, who works for Senator Jubelirer, and the other is Donna Malpezzi, who works in the Leader's Office. I do not think anyone spent more time and put in more effort than these two, and I particularly want to thank Dan Malpezzi, Sara, and Katie. We are going to send your mom back tonight, so be there to welcome her.

ADJOURNMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lebanon, Senator Brightbill.

Senator BRIGHTBILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now adjourn until Monday, March 11, 2002, at 2 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore/Lieutenant Governor.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate adjourned at 6:57 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.