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Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2019

SESSION OF 2019 203RD OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 29

SENATE

TUESDAY, June 11, 2019

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

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, ANDREW RUGH, Life Scout and Chaplain, Boy Scout Troop 28, Franklin, offered the following prayer:

Would everyone prepare themselves for prayer in the manner in which they are accustomed.

God of power and might, we come together today to ask Your blessings upon our elected officials and those members of the Boy Scouts of America. We pray that You would always guide our minds and hearts so that we may strive to be good citizens, that we may seek the ways of righteousness, justice, and mercy, that we may always be pure in body and mind, and that we may always have the courage to lead others. May we all continue to do our duty to our country, knowing that a good nation must be made from good men and women. Watch over those in authority. Grant that they may be entitled to Your grace to lead our Commonwealth with honesty and integrity according to Your will. Continue to be with us all so that we may do our best today and strive to be even better tomorrow. We ask all these things in Your name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Chaplain Rugh, who is the guest today of Senator Hutchinson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled, led by Cub Scout MATT ZAMPELLI.)
(Applause.)

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

June 11, 2019

Senators SCAVELLO, BROWNE, BAKER, KILLION, YUDICHAK, A. WILLIAMS, ARGALL, DINNIMAN, FARNESE, KEARNEY, LEACH, BLAKE, SANTARSIERO, HAYWOOD, MUTH, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, LAUGHLIN, AUMENT and FONTANA presented to the Chair **SB 705**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 30, 2004 (P.L.1672, No.213), known as the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act, further providing for definitions and for interconnection standards for customer-generator facilities; providing for unsubscribed energy, for community solar facilities, electric distribution companies and subscriber administrators, for customer participation in community solar programs, for location of multiple community solar facilities and for ecology and stewardship; and making editorial changes.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, June 11, 2019.

Senators SCARNATI, CORMAN, YAW, PHILLIPS-HILL, BARTOLOTTA, MARTIN, J. WARD, FOLMER, COSTA, KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, A. WILLIAMS, LAUGHLIN, STEFANO, MENSCH, KILLION, AUMENT, BAKER, K. WARD, BROWNE, YUDICHAK and MASTRIANO presented to the Chair **SB 750**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of General Services and its departmental administrative and advisory boards and commissions, further providing for grounds, buildings and monuments in general and providing for sale of Lieutenant Governor's Mansion; and making a related repeal.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 11, 2019.

Senators BLAKE, FONTANA, COSTA, HUGHES, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE, SCHWANK, LEACH, DINNIMAN, L. WILLIAMS and COLLETT presented to the Chair **SB 752**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in professional employees, providing for professional librarian.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, June 11, 2019.

Senators BARTOLOTTA, STREET, COSTA, YUDICHAK, MENSCH, STEFANO and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 754**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 62 (Procurement) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in small and disadvantaged businesses, further providing for policy, for definitions, for regulations, for duties of department, for bonding and progress payments and for report to General Assembly and providing for small business reserve program.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 11, 2019.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

Senator Joe Pittman as a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

HB 826 (Pr. No. 2085) (Amended)

An Act providing for sports raffles for charity; and making related repeals.

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

SB 60 (Pr. No. 941) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in human trafficking, further providing for the offense of trafficking in individuals and for the offense of patronizing a victim of sexual servitude; in public indecency, further providing for the offense of prostitution and related offenses; and, in depositions and witnesses, further providing for definitions and for recorded testimony.

SB 81 (Pr. No. 55)

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in marriage license, further providing for restrictions on issuance of license.

SB 320 (Pr. No. 324)

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, enacting the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act; providing for user direction and agreements, for disclosure of digital assets and electronic communications, for functions of fiduciaries and for compliance and immunity for custodians of digital assets and electronic communications; and making conforming amendments.

HB 235 (Pr. No. 877)

An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in petition for adoption, further providing for consents necessary to adoption.

HB 276 (Pr. No. 284)

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for rights of victims of crime.

HB 315 (Pr. No. 295)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sexual offenses, providing for the offense of female mutilation.

HB 502 (Pr. No. 490)

An Act amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, in crime victims, further providing for rights.

HB 504 (Pr. No. 492)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sexual offenses, further providing for evidence of victim's sexual conduct.

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

SB 94 (Pr. No. 940) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in additional coverages, further providing for the definition of "employee"; and making editorial changes.

SB 601 (Pr. No. 670)

An Act amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, in preliminary provisions, providing for preference for training programs.

Senator REGAN, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following bills:

HB 233 (Pr. No. 203)

An Act amending the act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.723, No.230), known as the Second Class County Code, in special powers and duties of the county, further providing for flags to decorate graves.

HB 859 (Pr. No. 2086) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in 911 emergency communication services, further providing for definitions, for telecommunications management, for counties, for fund, for telephone records, for inventory and for termination of chapter.

RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

Senator REGAN, from the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, reported the following resolution:

SR 140 (Pr. No. 844)

A Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to ensure the United States Department of Veterans Affairs sufficiently implements the letter and spirit of the VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018 and provide veterans in this Commonwealth with the care they have earned for their military service.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brooks, Senator Folmer, and Senator Laughlin.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Leach.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Gordner requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brooks, Senator Folmer, and Senator Laughlin.

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of March 26, 2019, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of March 26, 2019.

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

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

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

YEA-50

Argall	DiSanto	Leach	Stefano
Aument	Farnese	Martin	Street
Baker	Folmer	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Fontana	Mensch	Tomlinson
Blake	Gordner	Muth	Vogel
Boscola	Haywood	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Hughes	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Hutchinson	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Browne	Iovino	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Corman	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Costa	Langerholc	Scavello	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Schwank	

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN R. GORDNER
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, with us today are Boy Scouts from all around the Commonwealth. We have over 100 Boy Scouts who are here today. We are pleased to have them, along with the two young men who are here on the Senate floor who gave the prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

For your information, the Boy Scouts of America is a federally chartered organization. Congress officially chartered them and President Woodrow Wilson signed the bill into law on June

15, 1916. There are only a few federally chartered organizations. A couple of them, besides the Boy Scouts, are the American Red Cross, the American Legion, the Girl Scouts of America, and Big Brothers Big Sisters are just a few of those that are federally chartered. It is interesting that since 1911, every sitting President has met with them. In 1911, President William Howard Taft, along with Robert Baden-Powell, were the first to meet with Scouts in the Oval Office. Since that time, every year, every President has met with Scouts. So why are they here today? Because as a federally chartered organization, they are required to present a report of the nation to the President and to Congress each year, and they have done that for decades. A couple of years ago, a number of States decided to start doing the same thing inviting them to give a report to the Commonwealth. Last year was the first time that was done here. They met with Governor Wolf and they presented their report in the House, and this year we are having them also meet the Governor, which they will be doing in a short time, as well as present their report in the Senate. In Section 8 of their charter, it mandates that report to the nation.

We are pleased to have all of the Scouts. I ask at this time that we give our normal warm welcome to the Scouts in attendance today.

The PRESIDENT. Would all of the Scouts please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner, who will introduce the Scouts and present the Boy Scouts' Report to the Commonwealth to the Senate.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, it is my privilege and honor to have the two Scouts who have already participated this morning. Thank you for allowing the one young man to bang the gavel into Session today. I know that is something he will remember for a long time.

We have the Scout Chaplain, Andrew Rugh, and Cub Scout Matthew Zampelli.

The PRESIDENT. Will Scout Chaplain Andrew Rugh and Cub Scout Matthew Zampelli please approach the rostrum and present your report.

(Whereupon, the report was presented to the Lieutenant Governor.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the following report from the Boy Scouts.

(The following Boy Scouts of America Report was made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Columbia, Senator GORDNER:)

WHO WE ARE

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation's foremost youth program of character development, outdoor adventure, and values-based leadership training to its more than 2.2 million youth participants. With nearly one million adult volunteers in 265 local councils throughout the United States and its territories (22 in Pennsylvania), Scouting teaches real-life skills and qualities that help young people become "Prepared. For Life."

WHO WE SERVE

- In Pennsylvania, 61,235 boys (and now girls) ages 5 to 10 are in Cub Scouts.

- In Pennsylvania, 35,092 boys ages 11 to 17 are in Boy Scouts and Varsity Scouts.
- In Pennsylvania, 3,112 young men and women ages 14 to 20 are in Venturing or Sea Scouts.
- In Pennsylvania, 6,859 young men and women are in Exploring's career-based programs. In Pennsylvania, there are 5,581 Scouting units, representing partnerships and collaborations with community and religious organizations, businesses and civic and governmental agencies.
- In addition to our "traditional" programs, in Pennsylvania, we serve 4,887 boys and girls in elementary, middle and high schools through our Learning for Life character education programs.
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WHAT WE DO

For over 100 years, Scouting has stood for adventure, excitement, and leadership. The following provides an overview of impact of Scouting during the past year.

Build Leaders

From the time they enter the program as Cub Scouts until they become adults, boys learn what it takes to be a leader. Starting in 2018, girls, too, are now able to benefit from these early lessons thanks to the BSA's historic decision to begin admitting girls into the Cub Scout ranks. A program for older girls that launched in 2019 will enable them to advance and earn the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

In 2018, 2,381 Pennsylvania young men earned the Eagle Scout rank. Reaching this pinnacle requires Scouts to conceive of, plan for, and complete a project that takes into account everything they've learned about leadership, service, outdoor skills, and values.

Build Adventure

Scouting prepares our youth for active lives full of adventure. More than nearly 60,000 Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts attended our day camps and summer camps across the Commonwealth. At our Pennsylvania camps, they camped, hiked, climbed, paddled, and sailed. In all, this added up to 278,562 nights under the stars.

Strengthen Communities

In communities throughout the nation, Scouting is administered through civic, faith-based, and educational organizations that deliver our programs to their youth members and adult volunteers.

During 2018, our members in Pennsylvania recorded 1,002,960 hours of service to their communities, as a value of almost \$25 million (based on a national volunteer-hour value of \$24.14). Eagle Scout projects alone accounted for more than half of these hours of service to our State.

While you often see Scouts working in your community, you also run across them online, where the BSA's growing social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram reached more than 203 million people in 2018 with stories of service and leadership.

Grow Interests and Understanding

Scouts in Pennsylvania earned 171,323 merit badges during the year, introducing them to a spectrum of life skills topics. Of those badges, 58,764 were in the areas of Citizenship, Fitness & Health and STEM.

In the coed exploring career exploration program, a Career Interest Survey given to thousands of Pennsylvania students in sixth through 12th grades generated a list of favored careers that ranged from in-demand medical positions to more aspirational pursuits such as athletes, singers, and actors. Nearly half of respondents, or 45 percent, expressed the most interest in the medical and engineering fields, as well as programming and marine biology.

The Lions pilot program grew in 2018 as it focused on teaching new skills and building character in the kindergarten-aged boys. Likewise, the coed STEM Scouts pilot program—which offers hands-on STEM exploration for students in third through 12th grades—continued to expand.

PREPARED. FOR LIFE.

Today's participants in Scouting's many programs are following in the footsteps of millions of boys and girls who set off on great adventures. In doing so, they are serving their families, their communities, and their nation while learning skills and building friendships that will guide them throughout the course of their lives. They are becoming "Prepared. For Life."

The PRESIDENT. This report will be noted in the Journal and filed in the Library.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I thank the President pro tempore for allowing us to have this program. The Scouts are going to finish by giving the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. I will embarrass, as I did earlier today, two Eagle Scouts whom we happen to have here on the Senate floor, my chief of staff, who has been very helpful in organizing this today, Josh Funk, who is an Eagle Scout, and my son, who is interning at the Capitol this summer, who is an Eagle Scout. He is the tall blond gentleman over here. I ask all of the Scouts who are standing to do the Scout Oath and Scout Law. I will ask Cole to go over there with Josh, and, Scouts, if you could stand, we will see how these Eagle Scouts do. First, the Scout Oath. All Scouts will join with them.

(Whereupon, the Boy Scout Oath and Boy Scout Law were recited.)

(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks all of the Boy Scouts who are here today. Thank you.

GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I have the pleasure today of welcoming two interns from my Forest Hills district office who are visiting us here in Harrisburg and had the chance to participate in the last two days in various meetings and participate in watching some of the activities, press conferences, and the like. First is Maddy Gormley, who is the daughter of Ken and Laura Gormley. She attends the University of Pittsburgh and just completed her freshman year. She is interested in communications and business. Maddy is an outstanding addition to our office for the past several weeks.

I am also joined by Selena Woods, who is the daughter of Trina Woods. Selena attends Howard University and is interested in public relations and also looking to attend law school after graduation, looking into studying criminal law. She just completed her freshman year, as I mentioned, at Howard University.

These young women have been excellent additions to our summer internship program and both have outstanding futures and careers ahead of them. They are also joined by my district director from my Forest Hills office, Sue Conroy, who is chaperoning them here today. I ask my colleagues to give these two interns and Sue Conroy a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Costa please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR SCOTT E. HUTCHINSON PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I extend my thanks to my constituent, Scout Chaplain Andrew Rugh, for serving as guest Chaplain today and offering our opening prayer for Session. Andrew has been a Scout since first grade, joining as a Tiger Scout. During his time as a Cub Scout, he worked to earn all of the academic and sports belt loops available. He was the first Scout in French Creek Council to earn the Supernova Award, and he is currently a Life Scout with Troop 28 in Rocky Grove. Scholastically, Andrew is a sophomore at Franklin Area Junior/Senior High School. He is involved with the school soccer and track teams, as well as being a member of the senior band, jazz band, stage band, and outreach bands. Andrew is an active member of St. Patrick Church in Franklin, and he also blends his faith and scouting, earning three of the religious emblems available to Scouts. He will begin working on his final religious emblem this fall. Andrew is the oldest child of Chad and Christina Rugh, who are also here at the Capitol today, and he has two brothers and a sister.

Please join me in giving Andrew a warm welcome to the Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Hutchinson please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR MARIO M. SCAVELLO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Monroe, Senator Scavello.

Senator SCAVELLO. Mr. President, I welcome Victoria Grube, who is serving as my guest shadow here in the Capitol today. Victoria is currently a sophomore at Southern Lehigh High School. Although she is a constituent of Senator Browne, I had the pleasure of meeting Victoria at my college and career fair in my legislative district. I was so impressed with her student leadership skills and community service work that I asked her to join me in the Capitol as my guest shadow. Victoria enjoys volunteering her time for Habitat for Humanity. Victoria's other hobbies include participating in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), debating political issues, reading, and spending time with family and friends. After high school, Victoria plans on attending college, where she would like to major in secondary education with certifications in history and Spanish. Victoria also has an interest in politics, and she would like to minor in political science. After graduation, Victoria would like to volunteer with the Peace Corps prior to beginning her career.

Please join me in giving Victoria Grube our normal warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Scavello please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR STEVEN SANTARSIERO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, today I rise in recognition of the representatives from NEDA, the National Eating Disorders Association, who have joined us to address an issue that affects over 30 million Americans. Eating disorders exist across the broad spectrum of age, race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic and are marred by misunderstandings and misconceptions. Today we recognize an issue that has escaped our attention for far too long. I am honored to direct your attention to the gallery where we are joined by representatives from NEDA. Experts and advocates, like our guests today, have dedicated their voices to educate the public and Members of this Chamber for the need for action to address this important issue.

I hope you will all join me in raising awareness and support in the Senate for the medical professionals, role models, advocates, and educators who have dedicated their time and energy to this issue. I want to point out two who are with us today who have spoken out courageously about their own struggles with eating disorders. One is a former constituent of mine, Emily Rosenberg, who is working with NEDA now, having just graduated from college, and Joey Julius, who many of you may know as "Big Toe Joe," a kicker from Penn State, who has talked very publicly and bravely about his struggles in order to get the message out to others who are struggling with this issue as well. So I thank them and welcome them and thank all of the Senate for giving them a warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Santarsiero please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR ELISABETH J. BAKER AND SENATOR PATRICK J. STEFANO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, throughout State government there are talented and accomplished individuals holding legal positions who started their careers as interns here in the Senate. Today we welcome another very promising young woman, Ashley Beener. Her education and work experience are noteworthy. She completed her degree at Waynesburg University in just 3 years, a testament to her scholarship and work ethic. She is now pursuing her law degree at Widener, a school that has graduates in high-level positions in the Senate. Ashley has already gained useful experience in government and politics. For years, she has realized success in various aspects of grant writing in her home area of Somerset. She additionally served for 3 months as a field assistant for a congressional campaign. We always find it encouraging when intelligent and energetic young people take an interest in the legislative process and weigh in on the prospects of public service in State government.

I am pleased to welcome her as a summer intern assisting with the Senate Committee on Judiciary this summer, and we wish her

all the best with her internship opportunity. It was upon the recommendation of her home Senator, Senator Stefano, who will offer additional remarks about Ashley.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I am pleased to also join Senator Baker in welcoming her intern and my constituent, Ashley Beener, to the Senate today. In Somerset County, Ashley is known for her hard work for many worthy causes, and I am hopeful that Ashley's experience here in the Senate will help her journey through law school. I also know that Ashley will bring the same level of enthusiasm and professionalism to her work in Senator Baker's office that I have witnessed in her work in and around Somerset County.

Mr. President, I join Senator Baker in asking for a warm welcome to our guest.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator Baker and Senator Stefano please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.
(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator DiSANTO. Mr. President, I introduce Ananya Narayanan, who is serving as a guest Page today. Ananya is going into her junior year at Hershey High School. She is interested in government and political science and is an active member of the youth government. She will also be representing her school in the Commonwealth at the Future Business Leaders of America national competition in Texas later this month, and we wish you good luck on that.

Please join me in welcoming Ananya Narayanan and giving her our warm Senate welcome. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guest of Senator DiSanto please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.
(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN T. YUDICHAK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Luzerne, Senator Yudichak.

Senator YUDICHAK. Mr. President, I rise to introduce an extraordinary young man, Noah Gorski, who is shadowing me for the day. He is the son of Brian and Elizabeth Gorski. Liz is my longest-serving employee in my Nanticoke office. She has been with me for 21 years in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, and the Gorski family was so pleased with my representation in this august body that they moved into Senator Baker's district and now reside in Senator Baker's district. Noah is a 2017 graduate of Lake-Lehman High School, where he was a three-sport athlete in football, baseball, and track and field. Noah is a business major with a minor in political science at West Chester University, where he will be a junior this fall. In addition to returning to his studies this fall, he will also be interning with Division Group Public Relations Firm. Noah is one of the founding fathers of Sigma Chi Fraternity at West Chester, where he currently holds the position of philanthropy chair, where they are raising

money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Let us give Noah and his father, Brian, who is with him today, a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Yudichak please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.
(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR ANDREW E. DINNIMAN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, I introduce two guests, Catherine Elliott Huneke and her neighbor, Joyce Phillips. The two are here as a result of making a donation to charity. What I do in my district is, I give auction items based on Violet Oakley and the murals that we have here to teach people the history of these murals and the wonderful art we have in the Senate. As you know, Mr. President, Violet Oakley was the first woman in the United States to receive a public commission. Both of these individuals live in the Kennett Square area. The charity that they gave their money for is called Family Promise. Family Promise in southern Chester County is a program to help homeless families. Most of the churches in the area are in support of this effort, and it has done an amazing job of bringing people out of homelessness, not only adults, but children as well. They are up here today, and after Session I hope to give them a personal tour and more information on Oakley's paintings. As you know, Mr. President, they are not only in the Senate, they are in the Governor's Reception Room and they are in the Supreme Court, a part of this Capitol.

Thank you, Mr. President. I ask that we give a warm welcome to Catherine and to Joyce. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Dinniman please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.
(Applause.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

GUESTS OF SENATOR MARIA COLLETT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome as my guests a group of trauma surgeons from the Coalition of Trauma Centers for Firearm Injury Prevention. As a former trauma nurse myself, I know firsthand the hard work that trauma surgeons put in day in and day out to save the lives of those suffering from gun injuries. But the surgeons here today want to do even more. They are in the trenches of this public health crisis and are bringing their expertise to the table in reaching out to legislators to share their unique perspectives on gun violence. I am grateful to all of the trauma surgeons in our Commonwealth for the lifesaving work that they do every day, and I am grateful to the surgeons of the Coalition of Trauma Centers for Firearm Injury Prevention for using their voices to save even more lives.

Please join me in giving them a warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Collett please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUEST OF SENATOR ARTHUR L. HAYWOOD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce one of the Scouts who was here earlier. They have since gone to the Governor's meeting, however, Cortea Miller is a tremendous Scout. He is from Troop 358, Cradle of Liberty, in my area. Let me share a few things about Mr. Miller. First, he is a Life Scout. Second, he has received 95 merit badges already. He received the Boy Scout of America Award nine times, has traveled to represent Boy Scouts of America internationally in Canada, and is well on his way of reaching the highest honor, that of Eagle Scout. For these reasons, I ask that we give a warm welcome, in absentia, for Mr. Miller.

The PRESIDENT. Very good. Thank you.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR KIM L. WARD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I am thrilled today to welcome the Yothers family here. They are here for Boy Scout Day, and the whole family is involved. The parents, Glenn and Lisa, are Scout leaders and their three children, who are triplets--so, I am the only Senator on the floor representing triplets today--Elizabeth, Hannah, and Matthew, are all 18 years old and all Scouts. Matthew has been a long-time member of the Boy Scouts, while Elizabeth and Hannah began as Girl Scouts, moved to Adventuring, and joined Boy Scouts of America when membership opened up to girls at the beginning of this year. Matthew is an Eagle Scout, while Elizabeth and Hannah are working towards that goal. The siblings would love to be the first coed triplets to reach Eagle Scout rank. Having spoken with them, I think they will definitely be able to do it.

Please join me in welcoming this great family here to Harrisburg. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator K. Ward please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

GUESTS OF SENATOR SHARIF T. STREET PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce three outstanding young people who have a bright future. They are hard, smart, self-starters who have worked in my office, and they saw fit to come here today to be with us in the Pennsylvania Senate. I introduce Natalie Brand, Jared Cohen, Jemille Duncan, and, Mr. President, we have a fourth, Jillian Lawrence.

Natalie Brand is a recent graduate of Temple University, where she received her bachelor of social work. Natalie has been

an intern in my office since August 2018, where she assisted in organizing community events, including the first annual Cannabis Opportunities Conference of 2018, and she worked on the 38th year that members of the Street family have been giving out turkeys in the community of north Philadelphia. Natalie aspires to use her social work degree at a career in local or State government, creating good public policy for the people of the Commonwealth.

Jared Cohen is from Pittsburgh. He is a rising junior at the University of Pennsylvania, my alma mater for law school, majoring in political science and minoring in law and society. At Penn, he currently serves as deputy board member of the Penn Democrats, works as a research assistant in the political science department, and is on the board of the Penn Special Olympics.

Jemille Duncan is 15, the youngest of my policy interns, and is a rising freshman at the Multicultural Academy Charter School. He began interning for me last summer when still in the eighth grade, and because of his maturity and impressive intellect and interest, he does not work with the high school interns in our office, of which there are a number, he works with our college-level interns doing equivalent work. During the academic year, he volunteers as a teacher's aide at his middle school, where he grades eighth-grade English assignments. In 2017, he was inducted into the KIPP Philadelphia Chapter of the National Honorary Beta Club. In his free time, he composes well-written online essays that give his unique perspective on controversial topics related to politics and education.

Finally, Mr. President, we are joined by Jillian Lawrence, an incoming senior at Temple University, where she is a double major in political science and Spanish. Demonstrating her commitment to her studies, Jillian was inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha, The National Political Science Honor Society, this past semester. Moreover, Jillian is an active member in her community through her participation in her university's chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters program, as well as Temple's GEAR UP program, in which she tutors and offers college advice to high school students in the Philadelphia area.

Mr. President, I ask Members to join me in welcoming the interns who have helped the work of my office, the work of this body, and work to benefit the people of the Commonwealth who represent a part of our Commonwealth's great future. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Street please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

(Applause.)

CALENDAR

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

SB 724 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

SB 724 (Pr. No. 894) -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 8 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator CORMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 724 (Pr. No. 894) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes as follows: In Title 24: for retirement for school employees, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in membership, contributions and benefits, further providing for payments by employers and providing for nonparticipating employer withdrawal liability and further providing for actuarial cost method; in School Employees' Defined Contribution Plan, further providing for vesting; in administration and miscellaneous provisions, further providing for Public School Employees Retirement Board; and, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions. In Title 71: for retirement for State employees and officers, in membership, credited service, classes of service and eligibility for benefits regarding administration of the State Employees' Retirement Fund, further providing for election to become a Class A-6 member or solely a participant in the plan and for eligibility for death benefits; and, in benefits, further providing for maximum single life annuity.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations to be held in the Rules room in the rear of the Chamber.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of an off-the-floor meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator J. Ward.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Corman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator J. Ward. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

LEAVE CHANGED

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator A.H. Williams.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I request that Senator Leach's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a personal leave for the remainder of today's Session.

The PRESIDENT. Senator A.H. Williams requests that Senator Leach's leave be changed from a legislative leave to a personal leave. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

GUEST OF SENATOR VINCENT J. HUGHES PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I introduce Lincoln Green, who is an intern in my district office and is learning more about the legislative process. Lincoln is from Narberth and is a graduate of Harrington High School in Lower Merion. He will be attending Drexel University in my district in the fall and plans to study entrepreneurship. Lincoln is very interested in politics and plans to go to law school upon completing his undergraduate studies. Mr. President, I am happy to have Lincoln here today, and he has been a tremendous asset to my district office. He made sure that before he went too far longer hanging out with the constituents in the district, he got up here to Harrisburg to see how we conduct our affairs here.

Mr. President, it would do me a great honor and a great service to Lincoln if we took a moment to recognize him and wish him luck in his studies. Mr. President, please welcome Lincoln Green, who is interning in my district office.

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

(Applause.)

Senator HUGHES. As you can see, Mr. President, he has the Presidential hand wave thing down.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 25, SB 93, SB 112, SB 118, SB 174, SB 223, HB 318, SB 432, SB 536, HB 547, HB 548, SB 572, SB 575 and SB 593 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 621 (Pr. No. 931) -- 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, amending provisions relating to school police officers and school resource officers, and imposing powers and duties on the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from York, Senator Regan.

Senator REGAN. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 621 is about school safety and security. Security is a topic that I have devoted my entire adult life to. This legislation builds on the success of last year's Act 44 to insure schools are able to continue to choose what type of school security personnel they want protecting their students and staff. This includes the choice to have armed security personnel in their buildings. Unfortunately, the debate on this bill has taken a direction that I could not have predicted when I set out to do just two things.

First, address an oversight in Act 44 that prevented sheriffs and deputy sheriffs from serving as school resource officers as they had been doing prior to Act 44. Second, outline training requirements, not just for armed security guards, but for all school security personnel. I, quite frankly, thought that we were on a path that was agreeable and that which improves upon the groundwork laid in Act 44 to protect our schools. Senate Bill No. 621 insures that all security personnel go through basic school resource officer training, which includes modules on developing and supporting successful relationships with diverse students, understanding special needs students, violence and victimization as they relate to development, and threat response preventing violence in school settings. The purpose of adding this training component was to guarantee that, regardless of title, everyone in a school security personnel position would have a baseline on how to do their job within a school setting, including interacting with students.

Recognizing that we have schools across the Commonwealth that have been utilizing armed security guards prior to the Department of Education interpreting Act 44 as lacking authority for armed security guards, it was important to identify the necessary training that is included in Senate Bill No. 621 to allow those guards to return to their work, and for schools to continue having the armed security that they had chosen. That necessary training is Act 235. Lethal weapons training, which was established for the sole purpose of training individuals such as security personnel to carry and use lethal weapons as a part of their employment. This program is overseen by the Pennsylvania State Police. It has been in place since Act 235 was signed into law in 1974 and, for some reason, it is good enough for other armed security guards in the Commonwealth, but some of my colleagues feel it is insufficient for school security guards, even when combined with NASRO training, as I have described earlier. They would rather make their schools send someone, possibly multiple people, through 900 hours in municipal police training at a cost of upwards of \$9,000 per person. Let me repeat that, \$9,000 per person. Such training will not only cover lethal weapons training, as Act 235 does, but also such unnecessary topics like interpreting the Vehicle Code, traffic law, and law enforcement driving techniques.

Mr. President, the bottom line is this: our schools just want to get back to securing their schools the way they were doing and the way they see fit, and Senate Bill No. 621 allows them to do so. Therefore, I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on the bill.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator FARNESE. Mr. President, I rise to oppose Senate Bill No. 621 and ask my colleagues to do the same. Now, let me start off by saying I understand the purpose and the intent of the maker of this bill, and I understand where it is going, but the maker sort of touts the bill with the intent and goal of securing our schools to insure that our kids are safe and looking at a problem where firearms, individuals coming to schools, automatic weapons, semiautomatic weapons, is the idea of protection. Let me see if I can look at this from a different perspective. It seems to me, Mr. President, that what this bill does is attempt to address a problem with firearms coming into schools by allowing more firearms to come into schools. To me, that does not seem like the right approach, and we have been here before. We have been in this situation before, and almost precisely with this issue last Session. When you look at what Senate Bill No. 621 does, Mr. President, it radically expands the number of employees and contracted third parties who are authorized by State law to carry guns on school campuses.

Last Session, the previous speaker made some comments about the different acts and what was permissible and what was not permissible. So I went back and looked. Last Session, this body did pass Senate Bill No. 383, which had expressly allowed school boards to permit personnel to carry loaded firearms on school premises, if they had a concealed carry permit and went through specific training. What happened? Well, that bill never made its way to the Governor's desk because of the overwhelming opposition to this idea. Teachers and parents came out and expressed their position on what they thought the right thing to do was, and the legislation died in the House. However, even absent, Mr. President, was specific authorization, the Tamaqua School District was the first in the State to enact and move forward with a policy to allow staff to carry firearms. What happened there? That controversial policy is now embroiled in litigation because parents and teachers did not want guns in their classrooms. We are fixing a problem with firearms coming into our schools by throwing more firearms into our schools.

In 2018, we, in fact, did pass Act 44, which established the Safe2Say program created by the School Safety and Security Committee at PCCD and established a new school safety and security grant program which was able to allow school districts \$52 million to improve school safety. The goal of that legislation, like this one, was to encourage community-based conversations about school safety needs. Since that legislation was passed, every school district has appointed a school safety and security coordinator. Four hundred and ninety six Pennsylvania school districts applied for further funding to improve their school safety programs. Each applicant received \$25,000 for one project; however, the original request from our schools to improve their safety totalled \$178 million. PCCD gave out an additional \$40 million funding at the request of just 192 districts.

Nationally, 73 percent of teachers oppose guns going into their classrooms. The reason for that, Mr. President, is because schools, like here in Pennsylvania, school districts take safety seriously, and they are looking at their needs and making requests to us on how to fill them, but not asking for guns. They are asking for secure doors, metal detectors, and mental health services. Today, I had somebody come in from the architects association to talk about the way they are addressing this problem, thinking about new ways to build schools, to design them

more safe, about where they pick up students, how many exits and entrances, so that all eyes are on those entrances, so that we do not have to have armed guards with weapons walking around our schools, because we have an appetite for that in this building. We have an appetite for whenever there is a problem involving guns or safety, we do not look for other answers, we go right to the heart of it. We have been here before.

This legislation increases the categories a person is able to carry a gun into schools. I agree and I applaud the maker of the bill, because it does require some training, but not nearly enough. These security officers may face a simple hallway scuffle, but now they do so with a gun, and this is another issue that I had articulated last Session. I understand that the officers who are security guards and the officers who have retired, and police officers involved in law enforcement, I understand that. I think that is a good idea. I really do, but, Mr. President, when you look at these situations that are occurring around this country, you have individuals that when they decide to attack a school, like we see across this country, they go in with automatic and semiautomatic weapons. They go in with the bump stocks and the high-capacity magazines. I do not care who comes in, because they are not facing a situation, thank God, that the majority of law enforcement officers have to face each and every day. You are walking into a terroristic situation with someone walking around with an automatic or semiautomatic weapon. That is not, Mr. President, what people face on a day-to-day basis here in the Commonwealth. We are asking ordinary people to go into extraordinary circumstances and act like a trained SWAT member or an antiterrorist group, because that is what this is. That is what you have at these schools, God forbid. Ordinary people -- extraordinary people, because of the line of work they have chosen, and thank God for them, but to put them in that situation and ask them to make those decisions in what comes out to really be a terroristic situation with an armed individual, armed to the teeth, and, Mr. President, let us not even go into where they get the guns, because we know that. I understand, again, the training, I understand we say that, and it means that they are prepared, but they are not. This body should be thinking of alternative ways to address this problem. Funding systems for immediate notification of law enforcement of an issue, rather than tackling the problem with an under-trained and an under-resourced security guard.

Yesterday, this side of the aisle offered responsible and reasonable ideas to make this bill better. Reasonable ideas. Nothing that people would consider to be anti-Second Amendment or anti-gun, but common sense. What happened? Each and every amendment was shot down with the recommendation of the other side. We have been here before. When will we learn that more guns is not the answer? There is no evidence, Mr. President, that guards provide any deterrence. I think this is another issue because I brought it up last Session. Where is the deterrence factor here? A person who targets a school is either too mentally ill to understand exactly what they are doing, because they would understand that when they do this, at some point, there is going to be law enforcement showing up and they are going to face some type of law enforcement consequences. So they either do not understand that or, God forbid, they do and they simply do not care.

Either way, it is still happening, and the fact that we are putting armed security guards in schools, with all due respect, Mr.

President, does not seem to be addressing at least one of the problems of criminal law, which is deterrence. Certainly, punishment is a problem, but also a deterrence. I am sorry, Mr. President, I do not see that here. I do not see someone being deterred knowing that they could face a lifetime in jail, walking in and still doing what we know they do. Then, Mr. President, God forbid, there is the issue of the State. A student suddenly seems to be a threat and now the response may be deadly or, worse, a threat is called in by law enforcement and responds and they cannot identify which armed person presents the true threat. Both yesterday and when we did this last term, responsible and reasonable solutions were offered, but no willingness.

I agree with the maker of the bill, Mr. President, I agree that our schools do need help. He is right, they do. They are asking for help. They are discussing what works best for our communities and apply to us for funds to fund those requests. But instead of listening to them and finding ways to meet those funding requirements, we want to hand them a gun and wish them good luck, and we will throw in a training course, too. We need to do better, Mr. President, and we can, because we find ways to do in this building and in this room, we go out of our way to do things. I am not going to mention the fact that we usually bend over backwards for the NRA, but we have a way of doing things in this building when we work together, moreso on this side of the aisle than in the other. We do come together moreso on this side of the building. We do come together. We do have an opportunity to have discussions and work in a bipartisan way, but when it comes to guns, no. It does not seem like that is the willingness.

Mr. President, when we went down this road before, I heard it today and I heard it last Session, the idea about bringing the community together, to work together, to have a discussion about how we choose to keep ourselves safe, school districts, parents, teachers, communities, they want that ability to do that. They want the ability to sit down and have a discussion about how they are going, in the words of the previous speaker, they see fit. I agree. I believe that communities, school districts, parents, and teachers have a right to sit down and have a discussion about how they can keep themselves safe. But every time we try to do that on this side of the aisle, we are told that when it comes to a discussion about guns, the law is the law at the top and no individual municipality should have their own rights to have discussions about how to keep themselves safe. Well, if it is going to be good for the school districts and it is going to be good for the way that we protect them from terrorists, then why can we not have the same discussion, Mr. President, about finally sitting down and letting the municipalities have frank discussions, and in the words of the previous speaker, how they see fit. I keep hearing, Mr. President, and it gives me hope because I keep hearing that. I heard it last term on Senate Bill No. 383, and I heard it again today. Communities, municipalities, they do want to come together. They do want to have these discussions, but they also want the ability to protect themselves in the way that they see fit. Mr. President, I support that, but I cannot support this bill. Thank you.

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, I rise to stand in support of Senate Bill No. 621. Our number one priority should be to insure that all students feel safe while learning inside the walls of our schools. Last August, I hosted a school safety

roundtable in conjunction with the Senate Majority Policy Committee to develop strategies on just how to prevent violent incidents in schools. Those in attendance were district attorneys, municipal police departments, and representatives from school districts in southwestern Pennsylvania. Also in attendance, and with whom I went on two school tours, were members of the Israeli special forces, who have decades of experience protecting public spaces and schools. Since 1974, there have only been a half dozen terrorist attacks on schools in Israel. Why? Because every school now has an armed officer. We discussed that part of the challenge in addressing school safety is the fact that every school district is different and has its own unique needs and circumstances. There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

Many of my schools are in extremely rural areas, miles and precious moments away from any police response. I have had numerous school superintendents and security officers beg me to help change this law and allow for armed officers in their schools. One quote that I will never forget was from one of those officers who said, if you take away our ability to protect our schools, then give us the tourniquets and body bags we will need instead. This is why the school districts themselves deserve to decide what is best for their students to make these decisions how they see fit. The key is flexibility. We are not creating any kind of ineffective or impractical government mandate; rather, we are providing the resources and the opportunity for our Commonwealth and school districts to work together to meet the needs of students, faculty, and staff. This bill, which has the support of many of my constituents, addresses the unintended consequences of eliminating school guards who, as we know, have the proper qualifications for carrying a firearm to protect those precious lives.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to urge all of us to vote against this bill. I do want to share one thing at the outset. Hearing unexpected voices in this Chamber is a good thing, because it means we are taking into account experiences that are beyond our own. One of the great values I have learned being in the State Senate is hearing a voice that I have not heard before and trying to take it into account in a reasonable way. That is a good part of our process. Earlier this week, we heard from students from around the Commonwealth who won awards for anti-violence videos and messages. What they asked for in those videos was consistently more caring, not more arming. If we are committed to listening and following what the students shared with us earlier in the week in the videos that we saw here on the screens, we should recognize that it is more caring that our young people need, not more arming.

Second, I expressed my significant concern from folks in my district, and I believe beyond my district, about the unintended, and they are unintended, consequences of the bias that is in law enforcement. This is a bias that may not lead to folks in body bags, but it is leading to individual deaths. I heard a comparison to Israel, and I just want to share that in Israel, only 2.5 percent of the population own and possess guns. There is no Second Amendment in Israel. Israelis are not living in an armed society. In fact, there is no nation on the planet living in an armed society as we do.

Finally, I want to express my significant disappointment in PSEA and PSBO, who have gone neutral on the protection of our children. For these reasons, I encourage a "no" vote. Thank you.

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to support my friend and fellow colleague from York County's legislation that would provide an option for how schools address safety concerns. Mr. President, as a former school director, I can tell you what I loathed and what all school board directors loathe. They loathe the one-size-fits-all approaches and mandates. I can tell you what I loved as a school board director, and what I am sure every school board director who serves the Commonwealth today, and that is flexibility and options.

Mr. President, this bill would address a concern that none of us want to face and see in our districts. Having served as a school board director in the aftermath of Sandy Hook, I can tell you I have been through a drill that I never want anyone else to have to go through, but here we are today. In today's uncertain environment, we need to do everything that we can to provide the tools and the options for each of our school districts to address the needs that they have and the real threats that exist today. Mr. President, this bill provides guidelines and the oversight necessary to insure the safety and security of our students, teachers, and administrators, and it is done with flexibility to meet the unique needs of school districts and communities. I am sure that you all know that in my short but eventful tenure here in the Senate, I have made it a priority to remove unnecessary mandates and provide flexibility and tools for school districts all across this Commonwealth to take care of their students in the way they deem best.

I think what is really important to note about this legislation is that the requirements in this legislation are a baseline. There is nothing in this legislation that precludes a school district from requiring any additional training. There is nothing in this legislation that dictates how or if a school district must arm a school police officer, a school resource officer, or a school security guard. That is all left up to your school districts and your school board directors.

Mr. President, today's legislation upholds those efforts by providing yet another option to strengthen our schools and insure that our next generation has a safe place to learn, as dictated by those people in those school districts, the school boards, and their communities, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this piece of legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, just a few remarks echoing the comments of the gentleman from Philadelphia who spoke earlier and incorporating the comments of other Members as it relates to allowing or authorizing our local school districts to make these decisions. While I appreciate, understand, and respect very much the gentleman who is the maker of the legislation and his career in serving others, particularly in this space, I have concerns about the nature of this legislation. I am going to be voting "no." In my mind, bringing more guns into a school to keep guns out of school does not resonate well with me. The bigger issue I have is that as we have this discussion about, as

was mentioned, authorizing our school districts, permitting them to be able to decide for themselves the best way in which they could protect themselves. I think that we are carving out a unique special set of folks to be able to do that. We have an opportunity, and an obligation toward all of our constituency, to laud them and protect them. In my city of Pittsburgh, where I have the privilege of representing two of our council members and our mayor, have stepped forward and asked for the opportunity to be able to govern themselves with respect to the use of firearms in that city. That legislation, that ordinance is being challenged. If we are sincere about eradicating weapons in our communities and protecting folks, then it is incumbent upon us to not only provide to our school districts, many of which are larger than many of the municipalities we have in Pennsylvania, we should be having this discussion about preemption. We should not be preempting local municipalities that simply want to do the same thing that Members will be voting on today, protecting their residents. While that is a conversation that certainly is not part of this legislation, but I am encouraged to hear that people believe that these types of things should be addressed at the local level. I encourage my colleagues to have a discussion about looking at our local municipalities and allowing them the opportunity to be able to impose or enact similar-type legislation along these lines.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator HUGHES. Mr. President, I am working on a constituent matter right now. I will use that as reason for opposition to this bill. I am working on a constituent matter right now, Mr. President, that has a challenged young person trying to work through, in a school, an issue that needs attention. Kind of volatile, but most high school students are volatile. I think we know that most of our children in the high school age are volatile. Some of us would call them aliens on one day, and then at a certain point, they will grow to become regular people who we knew and loved when they were much younger, but they are volatile. What I have come to learn, in working closely on this constituent issue, Mr. President, is that the thing that has been most beneficial is having schools equipped with highly trained counselors who know intimately the issues going on with their student body and can respond in intimate, close, thoughtful, trained ways to get the help necessary to diffuse any issue that may be in front of them. It is clear, that which works best for our children in these schools are those individuals who are trained to engage with them in ways that will turn a problematic situation or get help to a child in a way that turns that situation around and moves that student forward. That is what our schools need. That is what our schools long for. That is what our schools desire, are more individuals trained in counseling in the art of intervening and being intervention agents for students who are going through whatever it is that they may be going through right now.

I think all of us would clearly admit, without any hesitation, the level of trauma that most of our communities, if not all of our communities, are going through is elevated. It is not on the down, it is on the increase. It is especially needed in our high schools, where as I said, the hormones are on rage and on fire in children. Our high school students are at that very delicate period. What it is that they need, Mr. President, is they need folks who are trained to help them, to intervene for them, to be advocates on their behalf, and to work through whatever issue they

may be working through. What they do not need, Mr. President, is an increased number of individuals walking around the hallways with firearms. That is what they do not need. They need individuals who are trained to engage with them, to assist them in whatever circumstance, whatever situation they may be involved in. I think it would be--we would be our best selves, Mr. President, if we moved along a path that increased that level of support as opposed to increasing the very number of individuals walking around, most in an untrained situation, having firearms and ready to utilize them as opposed to being prepared to intervene in a positive fashion where our young people are protected and embraced and supported.

I encourage a "no" vote, Mr. President. The "no" vote here allows us to be our best selves for the children who we say we want to be supportive of.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, just a couple points. In my spare time, the little bit I have between this job and raising kids, I enjoy entertainment and watching movies, and a lot about history, in particular. One of my favorite miniseries I have ever seen was the miniseries *John Adams*. The thing that I took from the series *John Adams* on HBO, which helped me in my job today, is that John Adams and Thomas Jefferson are two of the most important people in the history of our country. Even though they had vast political differences, as far as how government should operate in the lives of people, they developed a friendship. They even ran against each other for President, twice, I believe. Despite their vast differences in how this country should be governed, they were able to look past their differences and look to what they agreed on and formed a great friendship and helped develop this country to what it is today.

Mr. President, I think the one thing I can say about this room, all 50 of us, all 50 of us Senators, plus people watching and people here as support staff, want safe schools. There is no ideological difference there. No matter how we vote today, no matter how we voted yesterday, we all want our children to be safe in our schools. I am a father of three and have three kids in public schools. I clearly have a vested interest. Nothing more important I am going to do here in this Chamber is to make sure that my children are safe as well as all the children that I represent and all the children that all of us and other Senators represent, that we want to make sure they have a safe environment to learn, to be educated, so they can be productive citizens once they leave our schools. We are all united in that, 100-percent united in that.

So the question is, how do we do that? Obviously, there is a difference of opinion here, which is understandable. In my own district, what we are trying to do with this legislation is empower school districts. My own district, Philipsburg Area School District, which is up near Clearfield County, they have metal detectors, they have armed school resource officers in their schools. That is a decision they made. They went through a very public process to decide how this should happen, and it has happened, and it has worked well.

State College School District has resisted that approach. Certainly understandable, and certainly a decision that I respect. Huntingdon took some of their dollars that we passed in Act 44 and hired not another guidance counselor, but someone with a sociological background to help the interaction between kids to

better understand some of the differences to prevent incidents happening before they do. So there are different approaches, and what this bill does, ultimately, is give, again, options to our school districts, our communities, to decide how best to provide that security in their school. I am not going to tell every school district, I am not going to tell the city of Philadelphia, I am not going to tell the city of Pittsburgh, I am not going to tell other communities, rural communities, how to do this. I will let them debate and come together and make that decision. That is what this legislation does, it gives more options.

My second point is, a lot of debate has been centered around qualifications and training and whether this is sufficient enough. The interesting thing about holding these jobs is we have to make decisions on areas that we do not have a lot of expertise in. I am a journalism major. I am a political hack. I grew up in the political system. So whether there is proper training in this sort of thing is not my level of expertise, and so I have to rely on someone else to help me, walk me through this issue. Well, I cannot think of a person better to advise me on this issue than the maker of this bill. The maker of this bill's history was being an armed security officer, not a security officer, but a Federal Marshal. His training was to be able to carry a weapon and make sure that he could not only protect himself but protect the community and be able to handle that weapon in moments of crisis. Clearly, he was trained through that process to make sure that he could do that, and he had a long, distinguished career. So, when it comes to whether there is sufficient training, I cannot think of anyone better in this room to advise me on what is the proper training for a school security officer. If he is going to tell me that there is proper training here, that after this training people will be in a position to do good with this, to hopefully protect the kids in our school, then that is good enough for me.

So, Mr. President, I respect the differences, I respect the concerns, because, again, there is nothing more important to all of us than the safety of our students and our schools, and I think this bill goes a long way to assisting that, so I recommend an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-32

Argall	Corman	Martin	Scavello
Aument	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Folmer	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Killion	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brooks	Langerholc	Sabatina	Yaw
Browne	Laughlin	Scarnati	Yudichak

NAY-17

Blake	Fontana	Muth	Williams, Anthony H
Collett	Haywood	Santarsiero	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Hughes	Schwank	
Dinniman	Iovino	Street	
Farnese	Kearney	Tartaglione	

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 675 and **SB 700** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 701 (Pr. No. 847) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act authorizing and directing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey certain lands and improvements situate in the City of Allentown and the City of Bethlehem, Lehigh County, through a competitive solicitation process; and making a related repeal.

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	DiSanto	Martin	Street
Aument	Farnese	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Baker	Folmer	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Fontana	Muth	Vogel
Blake	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Boscola	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brewster	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H
Brooks	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Browne	Iovino	Santarsiero	Yaw
Collett	Kearney	Scarnati	Yudichak
Corman	Killion	Scavello	
Costa	Langerholc	Schwank	
Dinniman	Laughlin	Stefano	

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 712 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION
AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 800 (Pr. No. 1676) -- 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 educational tax credits, further providing for definitions and for limitations.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Dinniman.

Senator DINNIMAN. Mr. President, there is no greater supporter of the EITC program than Andy Dinniman. I have seen its successes and I certainly support the program. I believe in choice, but what I find troubling about this bill in terms of its approval is that it throws completely out of balance a very precious balance that we have been able to achieve in the Commonwealth. You see, if you have choice, you need to provide some equity in terms of funding of various segments and approaches to education. We need to make sure that our public schools have the appropriate appropriations, whether they come from wealthy districts or poorer districts. We need to make sure that our poorer students are helped. We need to make sure that the totality of choice is maintained. But if you look at what this bill is about and you look into the future of this bill, you find some disturbing aspects which, in my judgment, will throw everything out of balance and will be detrimental instead of positive for education.

To increase the EITC part by \$100 million while at the same time not to increase the money that goes to public schools through the foundations--and very successful programs, I might add--and not to increase the pre-kindergarten portion and not to increase that specific portion that we reserved and we voted on and discussed to make sure that those schools that are failing, that the EITC program for the bottom 15 percent of programs has a subprogram, OSTC, I forget the exact initials, but this is not fair. In fact, what I urge you to do is to look at the implications of what is going on here because, remember, the EITC program will increase by 10 percent every year, and remember also that while we speak about--I have heard some of my colleagues speak quite passionately because they believe that we need to help poorer students in dead-end schools. I believe that, too, but let us look at this.

That \$110 million will be for EITC this year, but if we follow this out to the school year 2029-30, and others look at what happens over the decade, the amount of money for EITC scholarships will be \$544,685,917. In other words, everyone talks about keeping budgets under control and good fiscal policies; what we are approving is an automatic 10-percent increase that will take \$110 million and increase that to over a half-billion dollars in money that goes to EITC specifically for people--because we have raised the eligibility now to \$95,000. If in this bill we were also raising the money for educational improvement organizations, that would be different, but that is \$37.5 million today, and

10 years from now it will be the same under this bill. How about pre-kindergarten? We have all talked about preschool. Under this bill, it is \$12.5 million today, and in 10 years will be the same.

So we are voting a bill that is unfair on two other issues in education that we say we believe in. We speak of the importance of preschools and early childhood education, but we do not increase that. We speak of bringing additional resources to the public schools in our EIOs, or educational improvement organizations. We do not increase that. The only thing we increase, going from five times--it is going to be five times more a decade from now, the other programs are the same--is this program. Are you prepared, in your votes, those of you who are fiscal conservatives, those of you who say that we have to watch our money just as if we were in a family, I have heard this, I believe it, and in fiscal matters I am a conservative myself, do you really believe that you should vote today to increase that by 10 percent over the next 10 years and end up with over a half-billion dollars?

Mr. President, let me just put it more succinctly for you. What we have to do if we are going to maintain choice, and I believe in choice, what we are going to have to do if we are going to have an educational system that is fair and represents all within our communities, and that is what I want to do. I support EITC quite strongly in my community. I work with businesses to make donations. We have to make sure we do two things in education. One, we treat all segments fairly so that we are not just giving money to one and forgetting the other. Second of all, and this is very important, I hope we can do this in the year ahead. I praise the Majority chair of the Committee on Education, and I have worked with a number of chairmen and I hope working with the Majority we can do this. The second thing is not only to be fair in terms of how we divide money, the second part is this, we have to have the same standards for all: the same standards of accountability, transparency, and academic content and what we are doing. We do not have that now in some of what we do with charter schools and what we do with EITC, and even some of what we do with public schools.

I believe if we spend our money fairly and equitably and spend what we have, do not say we will be at a half-billion dollars, five times more, in 10 years. If we do this like we have done every year, we have increased EITC in a reasonable amount, just as we have increased school funding in a reasonable amount, if we do that in combination with a set of academic standards and accountability, then we will have created the best system of choice possible and we will have created an educational system that will take care of the needs of every student, because not everyone marches to the same beat. None of you who went to school necessarily marched to the same beat. I did not, and I am sure you did not. We need to individualize education. That is what choice allows us to do.

So I will vote for an extension of the EITC, but not at \$100 million. That is not responsible spending of money. That is not what fiscal conservatives do, and I urge you to go back, negotiate this with the House and with the Democrats as well. Let us come out with fairer funding for everyone in education and let us, at long last when we come back in the fall, have common academic standards, accountability, and transparency for all segments of education. That is how we are going to get real choice in the Commonwealth.

Thank you so much.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Blake.

Senator BLAKE. Mr. President, I echo some of the sentiments of the Minority chair of the Committee on Education on this bill, and maybe amplify a few more points that I think are important. I did not expect to stand on this bill, Mr. President, but I have voted on more than one occasion on this floor to expand the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program, and I was proud to put up those votes because I support that program insofar as I believe it enables families across this State to send their children, at their choice, to private and parochial schools. These schools are an important fabric of our community and these students who attend them, faith-based and otherwise private schools, are better for their experience and end up becoming productive members of our society. I was a product of a parochial education for 8 years at St. Thomas Aquinas in Archbald. I think who I am today is traceable to that experience, but I had to rise on this bill because of the sheer scale of it, as already has been mentioned by Senator Dinniman.

I ask you to keep in mind, I represent Lackawanna County, and portions of Luzerne and Monroe Counties in northeastern Pennsylvania. My largest school district is the city of Scranton, 10,000 students. The per-pupil investment of money in that district is \$2,000 less per pupil than the State average; \$2,000 less. That means that the district is underfunded to the tune of about \$20 million a year. Keep in mind that \$2,000 figure. In the first year of this increase in EITC, as suggested by Senate Bill No. 800, \$100 million of additional foregone revenue to support the tax credits, there are about 50,000 parochial and private school students in Pennsylvania, so that increase is, what, \$2,000 per student? \$2,000 per student. The \$200 million in additional basic education funding requested by the Governor in his executive budget and, hopefully, to be voted on this floor within the next week or so, that \$200 million, if you take it on a per-student basis, 1.7 million public school students, is \$118. \$118 per student.

This bill involves, as Senator Dinniman said, \$600 million in foregone revenue over 10 years. \$600 million. I remember when we were doing the pension debate here a couple of years ago, I put up an amendment to require the Commonwealth to meet its actuarial or required contribution to our two pension systems. That amendment was not agreed to because Members believed that we should not constrain future General Assemblies in terms of the decisions we have to make about the size of State government or the allocation of scarce resources within that decision of our budget. Recently, in the Committee on Finance, we brought up a bill that would try to restrain spending. Basically, trying to articulate a statute that would keep us from spending money. This particular bill would lock in \$600 million in foregone revenue over 10 years. It would be fixed, nothing we can do about it unless we change the law, but we would be dictating to future General Assemblies that obligation.

I, again, echo the sentiment of our Minority chairman of the Committee on Education that there are reasonable and responsible means by which to increase this particular tax credit program, Mr. President, but it is not done with any sense of equity when you consider the strain on our public education system of being underfunded right now. For that reason, I recommend a "no" vote, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the bill, Mr. President. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator A.H. Williams.

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, for those who have not been here, I have to take you on a bit of a journey about why I stand today. Education in my life's experience, my family's experience, and my community's experience, despite the stereotypes of today, that being entertainment, athletic achievements, those who come from the African American community are distinguished because of their academic achievements. When we look to our history in this country, the very diverse and broad history, to the extent that people of color are involved, most, if not the majority, made an imprint upon the laws, the policy, the direction, and, frankly, the protection of this country borne out of a desire to do better, get better, and achieve better. Most, if not all of that, comes from the experience of having the ability to be educated. Understanding that as a Democrat, and, frankly, an African American Democrat in contemporary times, my position on choice finds me at odds with many of the people in my party.

Regardless of that, it is my personal life experience that a family that comes from poverty--when I say my family came from poverty, they did not come from just poverty, they came from abject poverty--and proudly stands amongst many in this country who can say they graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Yale, a variety of other schools. Not me, but members of my family. That is all borne out of my parents' and grandparents' desire to drive us to achieve even when the odds were against us and stereotypes faced us in the odds. Burned into our brains was the *Brown v. Board of Education* moment which opened up the educational experience in this country primarily through public education for people of color, people of color to defend this country, to flourish in this country, take this country, and be a part of this country. I apologize for none of that, because I see myself as an American. Even the differences that we sometimes bring to this floor, we are all Pennsylvanians.

So, in this conversation, when we talk about how we fund that most basic consideration, how do we make our children better, and we see it through a primary system of public education, there are those of us who have experienced the fact that before *Brown v. Board of Education*, things were not equal. Frankly, in the last 30 years, even with *Brown v. Board of Education*, things have turned to be segregated, unequal, and disproportionate in the delivery of a quality experience for all children. That put me in a central part of discussion and debate in my public conversation, and certainly in my private conversations. For those who do not know, my mother is a retired public school administrator and teacher, and many of my aunts and uncles are public school-teachers and principals.

So, when I began to venture down this path to talk about school choice was very, very, very, very significant in terms of my deliberations and the reasons why I chose to do that, and why I choose to do that to this day. It started with a story of a young boy who had academic excellence around him every single day. His father had fought poverty and graduated from Penn State and then graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. My mother graduated from Penn State, and I have a brother who graduated from Stanford and Yale, and a sister who graduated from Tufts. Then there was me, a struggling student in a public school who somehow found the ability from my grandfather to go on a postal route talking to Quakers and getting me a scholarship to a private school that literally changed my life. I do not

suggest to you that that is the experience of everyone. I am not suggesting that needs to be the experience of everyone. Because, frankly, for the majority of us, a public school experience and a good public school experience will qualify. But for a few, they will need a different experience. It may be parochial, it may be private, it may be magnet, and it may be charter, but it should be available.

What we consider today has nothing to do with that. Understand, I was one of the ones who helped draft the charter school bill; as incomplete and as much work as we need to do with it today, I was a part of that. When EITC first raised its head, I thought the possibility of promise of many young people who were captured in schools that were unsafe and not protected, it would now provide an opportunity for them to find options. Because we need to understand something: as much as we debate about money, there are no do-overs for children. So when they graduate from kindergarten to first grade, second grade, third grade, there are no do-overs and they are not part of a debate about money. They are a debate about what will happen in their lives. So for me, I certainly delve into these conversations, because I recognize that as important as a public school system is, a public school child is more important, and what happens to him or her is as significant.

The EITC program I thought would present an opportunity for many of these children, and at the beginning of it, it did. Tax credits were flowing to schools that unexpectedly were serving children of a variety of backgrounds across the Commonwealth, and certainly students from my district. But as the program progressed and income limits increased, many of those Members who stood on the floor and debated the bill, and, in fact, voted against it, are sending many of their children to these private schools today. They do not say it publicly, but they quietly agree to it. As a consequence, the EITC program has grown in strength and numbers, and, frankly, has deserted its core principle and understanding. As a result of that, for some of you who do not know about it, the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit was created. OSTC primarily focused on urban schools and modest income families. Not surprisingly, it is not nearly as rich in terms of the tax credits that they receive from corporate Pennsylvania who frankly do not direct many of those corporate tax credits to many schools that I would have as options for my students.

EITC has now evolved into a family of \$95,000 a year eligibility. The average income in Pennsylvania is about \$56,000. \$95,000 a year puts you in a tax credit that many of us in this room have constituents whom we represent who will never achieve and will never see. \$95,000 is not middle income in Pennsylvania, it is the upper echelon. This program is evolving in a way that I unexpectedly, and most importantly, embarrassingly, am connected to today, an automatic escalator. Out of all the things that possibly we could consider, why would we not amend a bill and have an automatic escalator for our public schools if we are going to do it for an EITC program? There are many of us who would debate that this is not revenue. Yes, it is revenue. It is money that we recognize and we direct in a certain path and a certain process that we recognize it would capture if we do not put this tax credit in place. So it is revenue. So we can play the wordsmith game that I am sure somebody will announce and articulate that it is not revenue. It is revenue. It is available revenue that we choose to not use in a manner that taxpayers can control.

An automatic escalator, for those of us who are watching, understand something: there is no other tax credit, to my knowledge, that has an automatic escalator, but, most importantly, there are very few line items, other than our salaries, that have an automatic escalator. Why would we be so deceptive in a program that represented so much promise to many struggling Pennsylvanians? I am not sure why. For those of us who remember the possibilities of being educated in this country without limitations, for those of us who remember voting for the possibility and promise of an EITC program lifting children out of poverty that my parents experienced, for those of us who still believe in what this nation represents, its greatest promise is how to educate a person in this country. For those of us who understand that \$95,000 is an insult to Democrats, Republicans, rural, suburban, and urban Pennsylvanians who are hardworking and desire for their children what my parents desired for me, and that is simply an opportunity.

This is a cruel trick played in a budgetary cycle to leverage for people who do not need it. I am not turning my back on the opportunity for choice. I will never do that. I will always argue for a child who may be required to live in a certain part of a district that is underfunded, a school that is not safe, who will never see the increases to the level that they need and are forced to go to the school at the end of their block simply because they do not have the money to move. I will always fight for that child, and I will do it in this public domain, and I will do it proudly. But I will not fight for programs like this that mask themselves as the possibility of lifting people out of poverty or, frankly, challenge them to move forward. This is no longer that program. \$95,000, an automatic escalator, represents a program of the elite, of a private school that will send their child to one of the most elite colleges in this country. The difference I have is that they should simply pay for it. My hope is that this bill will not be voted upon today, that it will fall in failure, and if it does, I turn to those in the House, and if not, then I certainly turn to the Governor, and if at that point in time he vetoes it, those who are interested in choice, those who understand it in a way that I understand it, if they truly want to come back to the table and negotiate and have a conversation about all students, average Pennsylvanians, struggling Pennsylvanians, coming from a variety of backgrounds, having an opportunity to succeed in Pennsylvania, my door remains open. But to this type of program, my vote will always be "no."

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I have a tremendous amount of respect for the previous speaker. No one has risked more and fought harder and ignored political expedience for the values of choice in education and making sure that people who have lower income can get a quality education no matter where they live than the previous speaker. I have a tremendous amount of respect for him and what he is fighting for here today. I have a different opinion, as we do at times, on the impact of this particular piece of legislation, but, again, as I tried to talk about in my previous remarks, does not mean we do not have the same goal. I think we do, and I believe this bill, although done a little differently than in the past, embraces that ability for school choice.

I, particularly, send my kids to public school. I am happy with my public schools at times, sometimes I am not, but I choose to send my kids to public school. The Democratic chairman of the Committee on Education mentioned earlier about how important it is to have options for parents, whether they be parochial school, charter school, or home school. The beauty is all parents get an option. We do not want to have just one option for parents. One of those options is parochial school, which obviously has a cost. If that is a choice and we do not have this type of program, then that choice is only for those who can afford it, not for people who cannot afford it, because you obviously have to pay a bill. They have to fund their schools. The EITC was created with the ability to try to allow all families, despite their income levels, to have this particular option to go to a parochial school. It has been a bipartisan piece of legislation, as the Members who spoke earlier talked about their past support for the EITC. It has been something that we have been able to unify behind, and do. We believe that this bill, again, expands those options to more people who may not have it today, who would like to send their child to parochial school but do not have the ability under current law, and we believe this expands that.

It is a revenue. I would agree with the previous speaker 100 percent. There is no question that it is a revenue. It is revenue that we are foregoing. At earlier times over the last 10 years, we would not have had the ability to do this because the revenues, quite frankly, were not there. Fortunately, the economy has turned and things are moving in the right direction, and we now have that ability and can still balance our budget in a respectful way, a proper way, an appropriate way, and still have the ability to expand this program. Quite frankly, I cannot think of a better reason to look at some of the revenues that we have now and expand options for children to pick the school of their choice. I think that this bill accomplishes it.

I certainly understand the concern of escalators and all that, but I would say this, back in early 2000, we voted to phase out the capital stock and franchise tax over a short period of time. The economy changed, and we did it over a much longer period of time, because why? It was a statute, and every legislature gets to put their stamp on that statute, and if things change around here and the economy changes and this becomes an unaffordable approach, it just takes a statute of the legislature to change that, as we did in phasing out the capital stock and franchise tax. And we could address some of the other issues that were talked about that we did not address in this particular piece of legislation.

All of that in, I certainly respect the previous speakers, but I do think that this does what we all want it to do, and that is to give children the best ability to learn in an area of their choice. That is why I ask for an affirmative vote on this piece of legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I rise to urge some sanity in this process. Mr. President, in prior years in the General Assembly, we cut public education funding repeatedly. We did that because we said that those fiscal times demanded such. Those were not cuts that I would have agreed to, but people in this body said that was what was fiscally prudent. That resulted, in some communities, with a reduction in the quality of public education that young people would receive, that is young people who at-

tend charter schools, which are public schools or publicly financed, and people who attend traditional public schools. In other communities, it resulted in rising property taxes as local property taxes were increased in order to meet the demands of a robust education.

Today, while we have made some increases in our funding for public education, we are now going to make percent change increases to the funding of private education for families of means who can afford it, at rates that exceed the increase in gross domestic product of this Commonwealth, the country, or any other business indicator. Invariably, this not only will result in a reduced quality of public education as in future fiscal periods where we will not be able to do both, not only have we not rectified the injustices of the past when we reduced funding for public education, but in communities that are more affluent that can afford and will demand a quality public education for their young people, it will result in higher property taxes.

While what we may hear today suggests that we have the money to do this, when clearly there are no revenue projections which would suggest that this is sustainable, let us not be deceived. A vote for this today is a vote for future property tax increases in communities that can afford it and a vote for a reduced quality of public education in communities that cannot afford it. It is a vote against allocating resources for education in a manner that benefits the largest group of Pennsylvanians, and it is a vote to allow people who have the means to fund private education for their young people, exclusive education, who in many cases are already doing it, it is a vote to subsidize them to give them more while we deny others less.

There are many struggling families who are struggling to pay for their homes and pay the property taxes on their homes that would prefer us to increase their allocation for public education so that local governments are not so burdened. There are other communities that would use that money to increase the aggregate spending for public education, but we are not doing that. There are no automatic escalators to protect those families, there are no automatic escalators to protect any of that, but for those of means who are some of the best prepared Pennsylvanians to provide for their young people, this is the group of people we decide to give the greatest amount of protection to. We are abandoning our obligation not only to the poor but also the middle class, not only to those families who are struggling in urban school districts and in rural school districts that are vastly underfunded, but also to middle class families in suburban districts who are struggling to pay property taxes so that they can maintain decent and quality public education for their young people. This is irresponsible legislation both morally and fiscally, and I urge a "no" vote.

POINT OF ORDER

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise to request a ruling pursuant to Senate Rule 20 on House Bill No. 800. I currently serve as a trustee of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church and on the board of trustees for Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School in Kingston, Pennsylvania. Therefore, I ask the President to decide whether or not I must vote on this bill.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks the gentlewoman for her 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(c)(2), the Senator must vote on House Bill No. 800 for two reasons. First, the Chair finds that the gentlewoman is a member of a class of individuals who may or may not be affected by any actions on House Bill No. 800. Second, the Chair does not find that any votes the gentlewoman may cast would be particularly personal to Senator Baker or privately affect Senator Baker alone. She must vote.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-28

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Scavello
Aument	Folmer	Mastriano	Stefano
Baker	Gordner	Mensch	Tomlinson
Bartolotta	Hutchinson	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Brooks	Killion	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Browne	Langerholc	Regan	Ward, Kim
Corman	Laughlin	Scarnati	Yaw

NAY-21

Blake	Farnese	Muth	Williams, Anthony H
Boscola	Fontana	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Brewster	Haywood	Santarsiero	Yudichak
Collett	Hughes	Schwank	
Costa	Iovino	Street	
Dinniman	Kearney	Tartaglione	

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.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 22, SB 28, SB 45, SB 66, SB 107, SB 123, SB 140 and SB 149 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 195 (Pr. No. 167) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for medication synchronization.

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 217 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 305 (Pr. No. 283) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act designating certain activity by the Delaware River Basin Commission as the exercise of the power of eminent domain that entitles the owners of the property in question to appropriate and just compensation.

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

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

HB 330 (Pr. No. 883) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 27, 2006 (1st Sp.Sess., P.L.1873, No.1), known as the Taxpayer Relief Act, making editorial changes to incorrect references.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 332, SB 337, SB 351, SB 356, SB 396, HB 404, SB 454, SB 481, SB 531, HB 538, SB 569, HB 615, SB 619 and HB 808 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator CORMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 856 (Pr. No. 1333) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An act amending Title 67 (Public Welfare) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in medical assistance hearings and appeals, further providing for definitions; in public welfare generally, providing for adoption opportunities and for family finding and kinship care; establishing the Kinship Care Program and the Subsidized Permanent Legal Custodian-ship Program; making related repeals; and making editorial changes.

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

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

HB 1210 (Pr. No. 1490) -- 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, repealing provisions relating to report of racial and ethnic groupings, to study of public schools that provide Internet instruction, to corporate seal, to submission of plans, to disapproval of plans, to Department of Public Instruction to prepare plans, to establishment of reorganized school districts, to advance establishment, to special school watchmen-school districts in townships of the second class, to copies of school laws, to educational broadcasting, to residences for teachers and janitors, to heating stoves to be shielded, to ventilation and thermometer, to fireproof construction, to doors to open outward and fire escapes, etc., to completion of abandoned WPA projects in districts of the third and fourth class, to condition of grounds and shade trees, to summer schools, etc., to possession of telephone pagers prohibited, to nonprofit school food program, to anti truancy programs, to medical care for children under six with defective hearing, to report, to care and treatment of pupils, to local wellness policy, to foreign language academies, to monthly reports to school directors of the districts second, third and fourth class, to Read to Succeed Program, to department duties and powers, to schools or classes, supervisors, principals, instructors, etc., to estimate of expenses and reimbursements and appropriations, to teachers of evening schools, to duties of public institutions of higher education, to medical education loan assistance and to special study on the revenue impact of out-of-State tax credits.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 314 (Pr. No. 292) (Rereported)

An Act establishing the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Authority and the Pennsylvania Rural Health Redesign Center Fund.

SB 321 (Pr. No. 717) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for the option to prohibit the location of an establishment license within a municipality.

SB 633 (Pr. No. 863) (Rereported)

An Act providing for the declaration of a public health emergency, for duties of the Department of Health, for temporary regulations and for immunity from liability.

SB 698 (Pr. No. 835) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1985 (P.L.457, No.112), known as the Medical Practice Act of 1985, further providing for definitions, for physician assistants and for physician assistant license.

SB 699 (Pr. No. 836) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of October 5, 1978 (P.L.1109, No.261), known as the Osteopathic Medical Practice Act, further providing for physician assistants.

SB 724 (Pr. No. 894) (Rereported)

An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes as follows: In Title 24: for

retirement for school employees, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in membership, contributions and benefits, further providing for payments by employers and providing for nonparticipating employer withdrawal liability and further providing for actuarial cost method; in School Employees' Defined Contribution Plan, further providing for vesting; in administration and miscellaneous provisions, further providing for Public School Employees Retirement Board; and, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions. In Title 71: for retirement for State employees and officers, in membership, credited service, classes of service and eligibility for benefits regarding administration of the State Employees' Retirement Fund, further providing for election to become a Class A-6 member or solely a participant in the plan and for eligibility for death benefits; and, in benefits, further providing for maximum single life annuity.

SB 733 (Pr. No. 945) (Amended)

An Act providing for the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund Capital Budget for 2019; itemizing projects to be assisted by the Department of Community and Economic Development, together with their estimated financial costs; authorizing recurring payments for certain projects; and making appropriations.

HB 619 (Pr. No. 614) (Rereported)

An Act providing for the annual designation and holiday observance June 19 as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in this Commonwealth.

Senator LANGERHOLC, from the Committee on Education, reported the following bills:

SB 200 (Pr. No. 943) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in school directors, further providing for school director training programs; in certification of teachers, further providing for continuing professional development, providing for trauma-informed education and further providing for postbaccalaureate certification and for Pennsylvania School Leadership Standards; in school safety and security, further providing for definitions, for School Safety and Security Committee, for school safety and security coordinator and for school safety and security training and providing for trauma-informed approach; in early learning programs, further providing for duties of department; and, in the State Board of Education, further providing for powers and duties of the board and for powers and duties of Council of Basic Education and Council of Higher Education.

SB 723 (Pr. No. 944) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in high schools, further providing for courses of study.

SB 729 (Pr. No. 907)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program and for school safety and security training; providing for threat assessment; and, in school health services, further providing for confidentiality, transfer and removal of health records.

HB 297 (Pr. No. 2093) (Amended)

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 career information and recruitment.

HB 522 (Pr. No. 2094) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for the Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program.

BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

Senator KEARNEY. 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 60, SB 81, SB 94, SB 200, SB 320, SB 601, SB 723, SB 729, SB 733, HB 233, HB 235, HB 276, HB 297, HB 315, HB 502, HB 504, HB 522, HB 826 and HB 859.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA
COMMITTEE MEETINGS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019

9:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on Innovation in Education)	Hrg. Rm. 1 North Off.
9:30 A.M.	AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bill No. 661)	Room 461 Main Capitol
9:30 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (to consider Senate Resolutions No. 47 and 48)	Room 8E-A East Wing
10:00 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 607, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, and 748; and House Bills No. 65 and 1065)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:45 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bill No. 325; and House Bills No. 64 and 751)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 91, 200, 456 and 669; and House Bills No. 384 and 1172)	Rules Cmte. Conf. Rm.

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, it has now been 4,720 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the State's minimum wage. In recent days, I have spoken in this Chamber about how Pennsylvania has fallen behind every one of our neighboring States and most of the nation on the minimum wage issue. I have explained how minimum wage workers now

make 38 percent less than they did a century ago, in terms of real dollars and real buying power. I have demonstrated that inflation continues to drive up expenses for working people in almost every vital category, including groceries, healthcare, housing, and education.

Today, I would like to explain why Pennsylvania's minimum wage should be a universal cause, despite the long, difficult history of partisan politics surrounding this issue. The need for fair living wages that stimulate the economy and allow people at the lower end of the pay scale to support themselves financially is not a Democratic issue or a Republican issue. It is not an urban issue or a rural issue. It is a human rights issue. After all, just 3 months ago a Franklin and Marshall poll found that almost 70 percent of registered Pennsylvania voters think that the minimum wage should be higher. Let me repeat that, 70 percent. The same poll showed that almost half of those surveyed strongly support raising the minimum wage to \$12 an hour. Those results make sense when we consider who would be helped by raising the minimum wage.

In Philadelphia suburbs, about 1 in 4 workers make less than \$15 per hour and would benefit directly from my legislation, Senate Bill No. 12, if it were enacted. In Philadelphia County, about one in every three workers would benefit directly. The same issue is true in Allegheny County, Dauphin County, the Lehigh Valley, and the Pennsylvania Dutch country. Yet, the impact of my legislation would be greater elsewhere in the Commonwealth. A \$15 minimum wage would give raises to 4 out of 10 workers or more in our northwestern counties such as Erie, Crawford, and Venango. It would do the same in the Laurel Highlands counties of Somerset and Fayette, as well as those counties in the Pocono region such as Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming. Workers from Pennsylvania's Allegheny Mountains region and those from our State's vast northern tier stand to benefit the most from raising the minimum wage. In places like Juniata County, Mifflin County, Clarion County, Elk County, and Potter County, at least 43 percent of workers now make less than \$15 an hour.

Enacting Senate Bill No. 12 would have a profound lasting impact on Pennsylvanians and their communities. It would put more money in the hands of consumers and stimulate commerce across the State. Enacting my legislation would establish the Commonwealth as a national leader on a critical economic issue, and it would grant millions of Pennsylvanians the financial independence that they have worked so long and hard to earn.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 1:50 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.