

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 9

**SENATE**

TUESDAY, April 9, 2024

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

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend DR. JON SHIERY, of Brookfield Bible Church, Harrisburg, offered the following prayer:

Thank you for this opportunity.  
Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for this beautiful day that You have given us. God, I pray for each person who is here, and may You touch them as only You can. God, may You lift them up, strengthen them, give them Your wisdom and guidance. Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for wisdom during the discussion. We pray for Your leading as the decisions are being made. Psalm 119, Verse 66 says, teach us wisdom and knowledge because we trust Your commandments. Jesus, we love You. We thank You for Your work, and may You guide each step that takes place this afternoon. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Dr. Shier, who is the guest today of Senator DiSanto.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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

**MEMBER OF THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND BOARD**

April 9, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Aaron H. Danks, 1801 North Second Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial

District, for appointment as a member of the Children's Trust Fund Board, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Bruce Clash, Harrisburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF CRANE OPERATORS**

April 9, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Elise Claire Schell (Public Member), 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Crane Operators, to serve until December 8, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice F. Allan Mauger Jr., Mohnton, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
CAMBRIA COUNTY**

April 9, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Cambria County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2026, vice the Honorable David J. Tulowitzki, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS'  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION**

April 9, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Amanda Warren, 213 Locust Street, Unit 301, Harrisburg 17101, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission, to serve for a term of three years, and

until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Kristen Denne, Downington [sic], resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL  
WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS  
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

April 9, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Moriah Hathaway, 2501 Hoffer Street, Harrisburg 17103, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, to serve until February 9, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Mayte Redcay Garcia, Lancaster, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

April 9, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Addie Abelson, Esquire, 158 Erford Road, Apartment 404, Camp Hill 17011, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Allegheny, Magisterial District 05-3-17, to serve until the first Monday of January 2026, vice the Honorable Anthony Saveikis, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

### BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator DiSANTO, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, reported the following bill:

#### SB 1092 (Pr. No. 1405)

An Act amending Title 40 (Insurance) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, providing for rebates and inducements; and making repeals.

Senator BROWN, from the Committee on Local Government, reported the following bills:

#### SB 1132 (Pr. No. 1470)

An Act amending the act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code, in finance and taxation, further providing for tax levies.

#### SB 1133 (Pr. No. 1471)

An Act amending the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code, in taxation and finance, further providing for township and special tax levies.

#### SB 1134 (Pr. No. 1472)

An Act amending Title 8 (Boroughs and Incorporated Towns) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in taxation and finance, further providing for tax levy.

#### HB 1477 (Pr. No. 1663)

An Act amending the act of July 31, 1968 (P.L.805, No.247), known as the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, in general provisions, providing for certain transmittals and submissions to governmental bodies.

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

#### SB 916 (Pr. No. 1510)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for Pennsylvania Sportsman plate and establishing the Youth Hunting and Fishing Restricted Account.

#### SB 998 (Pr. No. 1516) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for racing on highways; imposing penalties; and making editorial changes.

#### SB 1144 (Pr. No. 1484)

An Act designating a bridge, identified as Bridge Key 8404, on that portion of Pennsylvania Route 56 over the Stony Creek River, City of Johnstown, Cambria County, as the PFC Dr. Alex W. Barber Memorial Bridge.

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

#### SB 973 (Pr. No. 1515) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for veteran of Korean Armed Forces.

#### SB 1139 (Pr. No. 1473)

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, providing for burial benefits.

### RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

**SR 263 (Pr. No. 1488)**

A Resolution urging the Chief of the National Guard Bureau to select Pennsylvania as the new State partner with the Kingdom of Sweden under the State Partnership Program.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brown, Senator Dush, Senator Langerholc, Senator Brooks, and Senator Regan.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Hughes and Senator Muth.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Brown, Senator Dush, Senator Langerholc, Senator Brooks, and Senator Regan.

Senator Costa requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Hughes and Senator Muth.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of February 5, 2024, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of February 5, 2024.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam 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?

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

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

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

**YEA-50**

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

**NAY-0**

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal is approved.

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

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, it is my distinct honor and privilege to have a group of high school students here from the Purchase Line School District, and they are accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Kate Cowden and Mrs. Melinda Knapp. And I am proud to say that Mrs. Melinda Knapp and I are cousins. And I am also proud to say that I am a proud alum of the Purchase Line School District. It is a great honor to have them here with us today, and I ask that we extend them the usual warm welcome.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the guests of Senator Pittman rise for a warm Senate welcome.

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes, for a second time, the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I am also very pleased to introduce Mr. Dysen Gould, who is seated in the gallery today. Dysen is here and joined by his parents, DJ and Kendra Gould. Dysen was named the Punxsutawney Rotary Club Boy of the Month in February of 2024. I had the honor and privilege of meeting Dysen a few months ago, and he is an impressive young man. He is a high school wrestler, and he is about to embark on a new journey to American University in Washington, DC. It is great to have Dysen and his family with us today. I am quite optimistic for his future and what he is going to contribute to our society, and I ask that we extend our usual warm welcome to Dysen and his family.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill) in the Chair.**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the guests of Senator Pittman please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

**GUESTS OF SENATOR JAY COSTA  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I am honored today and granted with the privilege of introducing to my colleagues here members of the University of Pittsburgh Women's Volleyball Team, as well as their coaches, who have traveled here to experience an opportunity here in Harrisburg and to meet with all of us today. Madam President, the *Pittsburgh City Paper* recognized this group of young ladies as one of the best sports teams in Pittsburgh. They are tough, talented, serious, studious, and courageous. The Panthers clinched the 2023 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship with a clean sweep against Syracuse University. The remarkable achievement, marked by determination and skill, is a testament to the power of perseverance and teamwork. This

is the second consecutive season the Panthers have won that title and the fifth in the past seven as ACC champions. Their journey to success was paved with discipline and resilience, resulting in a remarkable season record of 16 wins and 2 losses in the ACC and an overall tally of 29 wins and 5 losses during the season. After defeating Louisville in the Elite Eight of the national NCAA tournament in an epic sweep in front of a record-setting crowd, they unfortunately lost to the University of Nebraska Huskers in the Final Four in December. But this was their third consecutive Final Four appearance.

Under the leadership of Coach Dan Fisher and the team's assistant coaches, Kellen Petrone and Kamalani--I think I said it right; I apologize, Coach, for mispronouncing it if I did--Akeo, the Panthers have boasted an extremely impressive program, have created an extremely impressive program. In fact, the Panthers have made it to eight straight NCAA tournaments, three straight Elite Eights, and back-to-back Final Fours. I ask my colleagues to join me in the Senate here today to extend our most sincere congratulations to the members and coaches of the University of Pittsburgh Women's Volleyball Team as they bask in their glory of their well-deserved ACC championship victory and offer them best wishes for continued success in their future endeavors.

I would like to take a moment to introduce each of the young ladies who are here with us, and as I mentioned, give them a warm Senate welcome. We have Bianca Garibaldi, Valeria Vazquez Gomez, Cat Flood, Torrey Stafford, Olivia Babcock, Rachel Jepson, Blaire Bayless, Ryla Jones, Rachel Fairbanks--and I will be noting that Rachel Fairbanks was the ACC Setter of the Year, but also an Academic All-American, and I think First Team All-American as well, tremendous honors for that young lady--Emmy Klika--and I believe I have got a few more to mention here--Dillyn Griffin, Bre Kelley--now, this is going to be a tough one, I am going to do my best--Haiti Tautua'a--did I do okay? All right, perfect--as well as coaching staff, Dan Fisher, Kellen Petrone, Kamalani Akeo, Michael Fisher, and Charissa Coleman. I would ask my colleagues to give these wonderful, achieving young ladies from the University of Pittsburgh a warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin.

Senator MARTIN. Madam President, I am happy to introduce to the Senate several students and faculty members from both the Lancaster and Berks County Career & Technology Centers. They traveled to the Capitol today to showcase their incredible talents and to recognize Technical School Education Day here in Pennsylvania. These CTCs service so many of our communities, and it is an honor to represent them alongside so many of my colleagues from Lancaster and Berks County. I had the opportunity this morning to see much of what their students are working on, everything from sports medicine, cabinetmaking, and wood technology. I got to hold parts specifically engineered for NASA right here in Pennsylvania and even saw firsthand how virtual reality

technology is being used to help train our future workers and, ultimately, lower costs in the process. It goes to show how these programs provide students access to cutting-edge technology, allowing them to learn the latest skills in their chosen field so they can succeed in the 21st century. In an age of rapid technological advancements, they are critical in preparing our future workforce. Just as important, they help students find family-sustaining, maximum-wage jobs right here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator Martin please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR DEVLIN ROBINSON PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Madam President, I am so proud to introduce today the 2023 PIAA State Class AAA girls' soccer champions from my district, the Moon Area High School Tigers. These outstanding athletes, seated on the Senate floor today, captured the third consecutive State title by defeating Abington Heights High School with a score of 3-1. Led by head coach Bill Pfeifer, who recently surpassed 500 career wins, the team is also supported by assistant coaches Nicole Falcione, Erin Hogan, and Arne Thomas; and athletic trainers Jarrod James and Tim Smith; athletic director Alan Alcalde; principal Ryan Matsook; and superintendent Barry Balaski. This is an incredible accomplishment, and we are so proud of their dedication to this sport while maintaining excellent grades as well. In fact, all these ladies have a combined cumulative GPA of 4.0.

Please join me in welcoming the Moon Area High School Tigers: Hailey Baer, Sydney Felton, Elizabeth Gallup, Addy [Adeline] Jacoby, Julianna Lantzy, Gabby [Gabrielle] Larson, Serayah Leech, Madaleine McMahon, Marina Mollica, Haiyang Steinmetz, Ayva Wiech, Nevaeh Barrett, Ava Estright, Lauren Muhanna, Lillian Snyder, Quinn Arnold, Grace Brawley, Alexandra D'Alesio, Kendall Dydek, Giada Faulk, Haleigh Ferencuha, Sabrina Incorvati, Norah McSwigan, Anna Palm, Ainslie Romasco, Hayden Shulin, Bella [Isabella] Taylor, Gianna Deluca, Adriana D'Alesio, Hailey Hatton, Sofia Jovanelly, Riley Lafayette, Natalie Muhanna, Anya Schwartz, Julia Shaver, Madison Shaver, Sonya Taylor; the head coach, Bill Pfeifer; and the athletic director, Alan Alcalde. Congratulations to the 2023 PIAA girls' soccer class championships, the Moon Area High School Tigers. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator Robinson please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR RYAN P. AUMENT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Aument.

Senator AUMENT. Madam President, it is my pleasure to introduce my guests for the day, the members of the Elizabethtown Area High School Bowling Team, who recently won their first Pennsylvania State High School Boys' Bowling Championship title. The Bears captured their second State title in program

history by defeating Middletown with 2 games to 1. In a challenging start, they lost the first game. However, as evidence of their grit and resilience, the team rallied and won the next two games, securing the championship trophy for Elizabethtown. Under the expert guidance of head coach Frank Telenko and assistant coach Paul Moore, the team was comprised of Derek Deardorff, Mason Moore, Evan Kimble, Declan Lentz, Ella Eberle, Cole Winters, and Asher Kimble. Congratulations to the players and coaches on this incredible victory. You are to be commended for your achievement and the honor you have brought to the Elizabethtown Area High School and Elizabethtown community. Thank you for your spirit of perseverance, teamwork, and excellence. Those traits should be celebrated, and they were. In a heartwarming display of community pride, the Rheems Fire Department provided an escort through town when the Bears returned home. Please join me in welcoming the Elizabethtown Area High School Bowling Team to the Pennsylvania Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator Aument please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Dauphin, Senator DiSanto.

Senator DiSANTO. Madam President, it is my pleasure to introduce today's guest Chaplain, Jon Shiery, lead pastor at Brookfield Bible Church in the suburbs of Harrisburg for almost 10 years. Pastor Shiery received his Master of Divinity degree and Doctor of Ministry from Lutheran Rice University. He also has a degree in elementary education and a master's in teaching and curriculum from Messiah College. Prior to entering the ministry, a little more than 20 years ago, he was a fifth-grade teacher. He and his wife, Missy, reside in Lower Paxton Township and have seven biological and adopted children. In his free time, besides spending time with his family, he enjoys watching and coaching basketball. Please join me in welcoming Pastor Jon Shiery and his family to the Senate today. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator DiSanto please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **GUEST OF SENATOR DAVID G. ARGALL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Schuylkill, Senator Argall.

Senator ARGALL. Madam President, in the gallery today is a job shadow, Cierra Abrachinsky, a graduate student working toward her MPA at Kutztown University. She is from Mahanoy City in Schuylkill County. Very passionate about helping our small businesses grow as a staff representative of the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Center, and I ask that my colleagues join me in welcoming Cierra to the Pennsylvania Senate today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guest of Senator Argall please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMITTA. Madam President, I rise today to welcome the Villa Maria Field Hockey Team from my Senate district on winning the 2023 PIAA State Class AA Field Hockey Championship. Under the expert guidance of coaches Katie Ordonio--two Katies--Katie Grant, Aliya Kalman and managers Jackie Aleardi and Claudia Eells, the Hurricanes captured their fifth State crown. These young women deserve to be commended for their commitment to excellence. Practice, teamwork, dedication--that is what it takes to win a championship. Congratulations on earning this victory. Thank you to the parents, the coaches, athletic staff, and supporters for making all of this possible, and we wish the very best to our graduating seniors for a very bright future. Please join me in giving them a warm welcome to the Pennsylvania Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator Comitta please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **GUEST OF SENATOR FRANK FARRY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Farry.

Senator FARRY. Madam President, today I would like to welcome to the Senate a constituent of mine from Feasterville in Bucks County. Paul Leszczyszyn was born and raised in Bucks. He is a proud PASSHE graduate, having graduated from Mansfield University with a degree in history and geology. He also worked as a radio DJ for radio station 89.5 WNTE as the host of Nosebleeds Sport Radio [Report]. Paul is involved in the community, including working on the Lower Southampton 4th of July parade committee. He also spends every election day working as a poll worker in Lower Southampton. Please join me in giving a warm Senate welcome to Paul Leszczyszyn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guest of Senator Farry please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR TIMOTHY P. KEARNEY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize members of the Sikh community from my district who have joined us here today in Harrisburg. They join me here in recognition of April 13 and a celebration of Viasakhi. Viasakhi is an important time of celebration not only in the Punjab region generally, but also to the Sikh community. The occasion marks the moment the Guru Gobind Singh chose to establish the Khalsa tradition. Madam President, I am proud to have a large community of Sikhs in my district. In fact, I have two Sikh societies in my

district. Upper Darby is home for the Guru Nanak Society, and Millbourne is home to the Philadelphia Sikh Society.

The Sikh community, originally from the Punjab in South Asia, have been immigrating to the United States for more than 100 years and played an important role in developing this country and this Commonwealth. I think we can all agree that our Commonwealth is enriched by the diversity of its residents, and the Sikhs have cultivated a climate of social tolerance and intellectual pluralism. Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, who lived from 1469 until 1539, was a great religious innovator who preached to his followers to meditate and remember God, earn their living by honest means, and share with the less fortunate. He denounced the caste system and taught that everyone is equal, regardless of caste, creed, or gender, and recognized the entire human race as one. These values are something our Commonwealth and this body could learn a thing or two from. The Sikh communities are part of a rich tradition of religious tolerance, freedom, and our tradition of welcoming new neighbors from around the globe with brotherly love is the foundation of our Commonwealth. With that, I ask the Senate to please give my guests their usual warm Senate welcome.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Would the guests of Senator Kearney please rise to be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Aument.

Senator AUMENT. Madam President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Madam President, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus as well.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. For purposes of Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held immediately in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

### AFTER RECESS

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.**

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

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Dush and Senator Muth have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

### RECESS

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

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

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

### AFTER RECESS

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

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

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Langerholc and Senator Hughes have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Martin, and legislative leaves for Senator Farry and Senator Dush.

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

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

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Martin, and legislative leaves for Senator Farry and Senator Dush.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Schwank.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

### CALENDAR

#### THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 67** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

**HB 269 (Pr. No. 2187)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 16 (Counties) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, consolidating the act of April 8, 1868 (P.L.73, No.37), entitled "An act to authorize the recorder of deeds in the several counties of this Commonwealth to record the discharges of all honorably discharged officers and soldiers"; and making a repeal.

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

Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 346, SB 365 and SB 667 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 819 (Pr. No. 928) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in burglary and other criminal intrusion, providing for offenses relating to critical infrastructure facilities; and imposing penalties.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator YAW. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 819 would increase the fines and penalties against those who intentionally vandalize or attack critical infrastructure in Pennsylvania. Those who willfully destroy and vandalize, deface, or tamper with equipment in a critical infrastructure facility will face extensive minimum fines and penalties, and they will also face civil suits for damages to persons or real estate interests. Mr. President, I sponsored this legislation after an attack at two electrical substations in Moore County, North Carolina. Gunfire at the sites cut power to nearby communities, leaving approximately 40,000 people without electricity for days. Disestablishing the power grid comes with huge national security risks, and doing so would not be taken lightly. Damage to these facilities has a far-ranging impact, so much so that the FBI and Homeland Security have also warned of increasing threats to the power grid from terrorists, both foreign and domestic. Losing power not only disrupts our day-to-day activities, but can take lives, especially among our most vulnerable. Other areas included in these critical infrastructure facilities are telecommunications, chemical plants, water filtration systems, and transportation. We need to do all we can before tragedy strikes again, and I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, just very briefly, we recognize the intention of the maker of the legislation as it relates to the concerns about these facilities and the like and damage and potential things that could occur there. But I think it is important for my colleagues to understand and note that the offenses that have been referenced here are already covered in the various statutes, particularly in our criminal justice Title 18 measures and the like. So, this is something that I think is just simply not necessary and something that we think is duplicative of what is available right now for our courts to be able to address. So, for those reasons, we ask for a negative 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-32

Table with 4 columns of names: Argall, Aument, Baker, Bartolotta, Boscola, Brooks, Brown, Coleman, Culver, Dillon, DiSanto, Dush, Farry, Flynn, Gebhard, Hutchinson, Langerholc, Laughlin, Martin, Mastriano, Miller, Pennycuick, Phillips-Hill, Pittman, Regan, Robinson, Rothman, Stefano, Vogel, Ward, Judy, Ward, Kim, Yaw.

NAY-18

Table with 4 columns of names: Brewster, Cappelletti, Collett, Comitta, Costa, Fontana, Haywood, Hughes, Kane, Kearney, Muth, Santarsiero, Saval, Schwank, Street, Tartaglione, Williams, Anthony H., Williams, Lindsey.

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

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

SB 831 (Pr. No. 1514) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

MUTH AMENDMENT A3948 OFFERED

Senator MUTH offered the following amendment No. A3948:

Amend Bill, page 19, by inserting between lines 7 and 8: Section 12. Effect of cost on rates.

The cost of the development, maintenance, construction or other activities allocated to or undertaken by a public utility as defined in 66 Pa.C.S. § 102 (relating to definitions) to comply with this act shall not be made a part of the rate base or otherwise be included in the rates charged by the public utility to its customers.

Amend Bill, page 19, line 8, by striking out "12" and inserting: 13

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

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, my amendment would simply indicate that no costs related to the development, maintenance, or construction of carbon capture sequestration and the provisions outlined in this legislation can be passed on to utility customers

via rate increases. According to a report released just a few weeks ago by nonprofit Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, the cost of electricity from power plants outfitted with carbon capture devices is at least 1.5 to 2 times more expensive than alternatives. Again, it is much more affordable and less dangerous to our communities, residents, and environment to rely on and to allocate State resources on the buildout of renewable energy like solar, wind, and hydro. A 2021 report by the Government Accountability Office found that the U.S. Department of Energy has actually wasted hundreds of millions of dollars on failed CCS projects, spending over \$684 million to support such projects at six coal plants, and only one of them ever came online. Fossil fuel companies typically pump that captured carbon underground to, quote, store it, but they usually do so in a process called enhanced oil recovery, a tactic used to push up hard to reach oil reserves, which companies can then sell as carbon neutral oil. Nothing in the current bill prohibits the use of CCS for enhanced oil recovery and this technology, and the bill at issue here is being used by fossil companies to cast themselves as climate heroes, even as they drill for more oil. Relying on CCS to prop up fossil fuels will likely raise electricity bills for our constituents, and my amendment will ensure that that is not the case here in Pennsylvania. Fossil fuel companies and their affiliates cannot increase ratepayers' utility bills to recoup costs from CCS buildout if my amendment should be adopted. I would also like to note that the National Federation of Independent Business enthusiastically supports this amendment. I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on this amendment to protect all of our constituents across this Commonwealth from corporate polluters and price gouging.

Thank you, Mr. President

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

MUTH AMENDMENT A3948 TABLED

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move the amendment be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman moves that the amendment be laid upon the table. That motion is not debatable.

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

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

YEA-28

Argall	Culver	Laughlin	Robinson
Aument	DiSanto	Martin	Rothman
Baker	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Bartolotta	Farry	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brooks	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brown	Hutchinson	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Langerholc	Regan	Yaw

NAY-22

Boscola	Dillon	Kearney	Schwank
Brewster	Flynn	Miller	Street
Cappelletti	Fontana	Muth	Tartaglione
Collett	Haywood	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Saval	Williams, Lindsey
Costa	Kane		

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

The PRESIDENT. Amendment A3948 will be laid upon the table.

And the question recurring,  
Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?  
It was 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 Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Bill No. 831. Senate Bill No. 831 would establish a regulatory framework for carbon capture and storage in Pennsylvania. This bill will provide for liability during the operation of a carbon storage facility and long-term monitoring after closure. The Great Plains Institute, using data from a 2009 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources report, estimates that Pennsylvania could store about 2.4 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide underground. This is equivalent to the level of greenhouse gases emitted from 517 million gas-powered passenger vehicles annually, according to the EPA. Mr. President, this legislation is a proactive step to secure Pennsylvania's future as a hub for carbon capture and sequestration. It is a pragmatic solution to a problem that we all want to solve: reduce our carbon emissions without crippling the reliability of our existing electric grid.

This legislation would be an integral part of the establishment of two hydrogen hubs that the region was recently awarded. Pennsylvania is uniquely qualified to develop a vast carbon capture and storage network, thanks to our robust electric generation industry and extensive geological formations. We must act now to establish a solid regulatory framework that will attract investment, development, and economic opportunity for decades to come. I would also like to note that in a briefing last fall, this bill was supported by the Pennsylvania State Building [and] Construction Trades Council, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry. It is also supported by the Allegheny-Fayette Central [County] Labor Council and the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 831.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I will be voting "no" on Senate Bill No. 831. We have talked a lot about the potential of carbon capture utilization and storage. I am open to the concept,



but I do not support this bill. I am concerned about the lack of protections for environmental justice communities and the need for additional support to adequately regulate carbon dioxide underground injection wells. That said, I believe that if it is done properly, CCUS may be part of a comprehensive decarbonization strategy. Pennsylvania needs a cohesive economy-wide approach to net zero that includes a diverse energy portfolio. Most likely that will include CCUS, but any approach that we take must be done wisely, judiciously, and effectively from environmental, economic sustainability; environmental justice; and public health and safety standpoints. This legislation does not meet that criteria. I will be voting "no." Thank you.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise to speak in opposition, strong opposition, to Senate Bill No. 831 and the overall concept of utilizing carbon capture and storage as some sort of proposed climate solution. Mr. President, as many stakeholders have indicated, this bill is deeply flawed and does not provide the necessary safeguards for our communities or our environment. Nor does it provide an actual solution to combating the climate crisis that, regardless of whether you believe it is happening, it is all impacting every single one of us. By no means are my comments today a comprehensive list of all the concerns with Senate Bill No. 831, but some of them shared with us by some of the stakeholders who oppose this legislation.

There is no real discussion around how many miles of pipeline will need to be built and where these pipelines will be built relative to actually transporting this captured carbon and how it will be injected into the ground. Stakeholders have indicated that this could cause issues putting these carbon capture pipelines through highly populated areas, even deemed as a utility, such as the Mariner East pipeline was deemed as a utility despite it does not provide any resource for anyone's electric utilities, but rather is sent overseas to manufacture plastics. We have talked about how climate solutions are needed, but capturing carbon cannot be the centerpiece of any serious climate plan. Its track record makes it clear that this is, again, just another way of extending the profit-driven fossil fuel industry to continue what they have done for decades, which is loot and pollute our Commonwealth and really the world.

As I quote Food & Water Watch, an organization fighting for clean air and clean water and a healthier future, said that, quote: "Betting on carbon capture as a primary solution to the climate crisis is essentially the same as giving up." Mr. President, if we are giving up on our Pennsylvania Constitution that guarantees in Article 1, Section 27 that states that "people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." We need to move to 100 percent renewable energy, and carbon capture is simply not the answer, no matter how inconvenient that may be to the oil and gas industry. This technology is incredibly expensive, and it is unproven after billions of dollars in both public and private investments over decades. There are no carbon capture success stories, only failures. The reason that the oil and gas industry loves carbon capture is simple: it extends the fossil fuel profit era instead of ending it. A study by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis said that 13 of the world's biggest projects, accounting for more than half the global carbon capture capacity,

found that 10 of them are either underperforming by large margins, trapping as little as half the CO2 promised, or they have already shut down.

In addition to the environmental and economic reasons that this is a terrible idea for Pennsylvania, piping carbon dioxide through communities presents a dangerous threat to public health and safety. To transport capture carbon through pipelines, it is highly pressurized, and it must be kept cold, which would require the construction of pipelines that can withstand those conditions. According to the Center for International Environmental Law, condensed carbon dioxide can be corrosive to the steel used to build those very pipelines, increasing the risks of leaks, ruptures, and potentially catastrophic running fractures. Residents in western Mississippi experienced these dangers in real life in 2020 when Denbury Enterprises' [Inc.] carbon pipeline ruptured; 300 people were evacuated and 45 people were hospitalized. And this is just a small example of the great harm that can occur due to these ruptures. There are still Pennsylvania families living here today in our State without clean drinking water from the oil and gas industry, destroying the water table below. Instead of giving the fossil fuel industry yet another handout, we should be working together to make sure everyone's constitutional rights are actually upheld and that we all have clean air, clean water, and a future free of pollution and harm. It is time that we actually start enforcing the current regulations that exist and legislating protections for Pennsylvania residents and our environment. I ask my colleagues for a "no" vote on Senate Bill No. 831.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I want to go to heaven, but I do not want to die. That is the only thing I can think of whenever I hear some of the comments being made on the floor at this moment. One day I hear how terrible my coal-fired power plants are, how terrible it is to put carbon into the atmosphere. And so, we come up with a regulatory framework to allow for the potential of not emitting carbon during the production of electricity, and now that is fatally flawed. I hear all about how important it is to have hydrogen hubs in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Many of my friends in the southeast are excited about hydrogen hubs. But guess what you need for hydrogen hubs? You need pipelines, and eventually, you need to sequester some carbon. So, what do we want? What do we want whenever it comes to the production of electricity, the production of energy, to power our economy, to power our families, and to, in the minds of some, help the environment? Now, we can go back and relitigate all of the climate conversations that we have day in and day out, but I go back to the district that I represent. The people in my district who produce electricity that happens to emit carbon have been vilified over the last several decades. They have been vilified by so many for producing this electricity and yet somehow destroying the planet. So now we come in front of you with a regulatory framework. Let us be clear. There is no subsidy here, there is no grant, there is no tax credit. What we are establishing is a regulatory framework that if, if carbon capture sequestration comes to the table in Pennsylvania and becomes a viable source of electricity production, we have a regulatory framework in place. I too have my doubts and my suspicions of the efficacy of carbon capture and sequestration. I am not convinced it is ever really going

to happen. But, you know, if it is going to be the next new great thing, then we should put a regulatory framework in place to allow it to occur. But we have to understand, if you are going to go to heaven, you are going to die. That is the reality. And I am looking here at this piece of paper, yet again, where the Pennsylvania State Building and Construction Trades Council supports the legislation in front of us. Family-sustaining jobs are behind this legislation. You want to get rid of family-sustaining jobs when they emit carbon, so be it. But then to stand here and want to oppose an alternative, working families and those that represent them believe this could be an alternative. So come on. If you want to throw my people out on the unemployment line from their maximum-wage jobs, then at least accept a potential opportunity for a different path forward. I ask for an affirmative vote.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to lend my support in support of many other Members of this side of the aisle, I believe, supporting the need for carbon capture utilization and storage as an urgent mechanism for curbing the effects of our climate crisis and ensuring that our families and our grandchildren have a livable planet. Carbon capture is essential for the continued use of fossil fuels while we transition and while we work to transition to a clean energy future. In particular, carbon capture is an important resource with a new and improved electric grid portfolio standard and for the development of a hydrogen hub that was recently awarded that the southwestern part of the Pennsylvania region will be able to participate with. Hydrogen is the next-generation fuel source that will be part of a longer-term solution for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and continued development of the Commonwealth's heavy industry such as steel and cement manufacturing.

However, Mr. President, there is much more work, much more work that needs to be done on this regulatory framework, as has been described. We have significant questions about how the liability, for example, for future leaks or potential water contamination will be handled. There should not, and the State should not be left holding the bag as we have in the past with abandoned oil wells and gas wells. We have to address surface owners' rights and pipeline safety concerns, as were mentioned previously by previous speakers, including protecting landowners from forced pooling. We must take steps and must ensure that DEP is properly staffed to permit, enforce, and monitor carbon capture projects as we attempted to do here yesterday. And we have to provide citizens, it is important that we provide citizens with a voice when these projects are proposed for development in their communities and that they are developed properly, and how they are developed.

Mr. President, I am in support of this measure allowed to be moving forward to ensure that we have an opportunity to continue this discussion about how we regulate carbon capture and sequestration here in Pennsylvania. What is going to be required after this advances through this Chamber is that we work to find a compromise, find a way in which we all can come to agreement, whether it be Democrats and Republicans, labor and the environmental community, House and administration as well, working together to be able to fashion what an appropriate carbon capture regulatory framework or framework needs to look like as we go forward. So, we look forward to working with all parties to be

able to get to a place in a bipartisan way that we can address the concerns that folks have raised through this process, and that we can come back together here at some point in time with something that I think everyone believes is an appropriate way to address this issue. But for the moment, I am going to support advancing it through this Chamber to be able to allow the process to continue and knowing that there are other stakeholders in this conversation who are asking the same: to be given the opportunity to bring to closure what we think is in the best interests of the people of this Commonwealth. So, thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks.

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-30

Argall	Culver	Martin	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Miller	Stefano
Baker	Farry	Pennycuick	Tartaglione
Bartolotta	Flynn	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Boscola	Fontana	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brewster	Kane	Regan	Ward, Kim
Brown	Langerholc	Robinson	Yaw
Costa	Laughlin		

NAY-20

Brooks	DiSanto	Hutchinson	Saval
Cappelletti	Dush	Kearney	Schwank
Coleman	Gebhard	Mastriano	Street
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Williams, Anthony H.
Comitta	Hughes	Rothman	Williams, Lindsey

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 832** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 917 (Pr. No. 2874)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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 gentlewoman from Mercer, Senator Brooks.

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, I rise to offer amendment No. A3503 to Senate Bill No. 975.

The PRESIDENT. Will the gentlelady suspend? We are on House Bill No. 917.

Senator BROOKS. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT. Would the Senator like to speak on the bill or? [Senator Brooks indicates she does not wish to speak.]

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILL AMENDED

**SB 975 (Pr. No. 1228)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BROOKS AMENDMENT A3503 ADOPTED

Senator BROOKS offered the following amendment No. A3503:

Amend Bill, page 2, line 18, by striking out "SCHOOL DISTRICT, EDUCATIONAL FACILITY" and inserting:  
school entity or institution of higher education  
Amend Bill, page 2, lines 22 and 23, by striking out "SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL FACILITY" and inserting:  
school entity or institution of higher education

Amend Bill, page 2, lines 26 and 27, by striking out "SCHOOL DISTRICT, EDUCATIONAL FACILITY" and inserting:

school entity or institution of higher education

Amend Bill, page 3, line 1, by striking out "SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL FACILITY" and inserting:

school entity or institution of higher education

Amend Bill, page 3, lines 2 and 3, by striking out "SCHOOL OR EDUCATIONAL FACILITY" and inserting:

school entity or institution of higher education

Amend Bill, page 3, lines 20 through 26, by striking out "school or educational" in line 20 and all of lines 21 through 26 and inserting:  
school entity or institution of higher education.

(e) Definition.--[As used in this section, the term "communicates" means conveys in person or by written or electronic means, including telephone, electronic mail, Internet, facsimile, telex and similar transmissions.] As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Communicates." Conveys in person or by written or electronic means, including telephone, electronic mail, Internet, facsimile, telex and similar transmissions.

"Institution of higher education." The term includes any of the following:

(1) A community college operating under Article XIX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

(2) A university within the State System of Higher Education.

(3) The Pennsylvania State University.

(4) The University of Pittsburgh.

(5) Temple University.

(6) Lincoln University.

(7) Any other institution that is designated as "State-related" by the Commonwealth.

(8) Any accredited private or independent college or university.

(9) Any private licensed school as defined in the act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1585, No.174), known as the Private Licensed Schools Act.

"School entity." A public school, including a charter school or cyber charter school, private school, nonpublic school, intermediate unit or area career and technical school operating within this Commonwealth.

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

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

Senator BROOKS. Mr. President, this amendment simply clarifies definitions within the legislation by replacing "school or educational facility" with "school entity or institution of higher education" and defining "institution of higher education."

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

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

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

YEA-37

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

NAY-13

Cappelletti	Hughes	Santarsiero	Tartaglione
Collett	Kearney	Saval	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Muth	Street	Williams, Lindsey
Haywood			

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1018, SB 1058 and SB 1087** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 1120 (Pr. No. 1436)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in bonds and recognizances, providing for bail of persons posing threat to public safety.

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 Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, today I rise along with my friends and colleagues, Senator Langerholc, Senator Pennycuick, and Senator Baker, to support Senate Bill No. 1120. This legislation is in response to an incident in Allegheny County last summer where an individual was released by a Magisterial District Judge on a no-cash bond, even though he was in possession of 450,000 doses of fentanyl, which is enough to kill about 35 percent of Pennsylvania residents. It is unacceptable that this dangerous person was released on a non-monetary condition then failed to show up for a hearing, and according to court documents, is still on the run.

Let me tell you about this person, a resident of New York. He was released in New York on a non-monetary condition and was on the run from the courts in New York. Had a previous criminal record that includes seven prior arrests, two misdemeanor convictions, two pending cases in the State of New York: one for Grand Larceny and one for sexual assault. Upon his release from New York, he fled on a Greyhound bus to Allegheny County, where he was picked up at a Greyhound bus station with those 450,000 doses of fentanyl, and all he got was a non-monetary bail. All he did was sign his name, released himself on his own recognizance, and then never showed up for court, just like he did in New York. Completely unacceptable. And this is just one example of a high level of threat to all of our constituents. And it is

a shame that our current law does not provide for better safeguards for these extreme circumstances. Senate Bill No. 1120 aims to address these most dangerous individuals.

These extreme cases, under this bill, if a person possesses 10 grams or more of fentanyl, or has a history of violent crime, assaults on a law enforcement officer, or evades arrest on foot, he or she cannot legally be released without bail. To be clear, this bill does not change the presumption of innocent until proven guilty. Senate Bill No. 1120 is simply a safeguard to put into place to keep our Pennsylvania residents safe in a significant way by ensuring the most dangerous individuals are not released without bail.

This legislation became personal to me when it was amended last month by chairwoman Baker to add a measure to hold those responsible who assault law enforcement responsible. My family, like so many others, is in law enforcement. Their dedication and bravery is second to none. They answer the call when their neighbors are in distress, and they never waver in their commitment to ensure our communities are safe. Mr. President, I would also like to take a moment to thank the members of our law enforcement from across this Commonwealth for what they do. The members of law enforcement work daily to keep our communities safe, and it is time this General Assembly does the same. Thank you to Senator Baker, Senator Langerholc, and Senator Pennycuick for your hard work and collaboration with me on this legislation. And thank you to my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle for supporting Senate Bill No. 1120 and helping to keep our constituents safe. I encourage an affirmative vote, and I thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I share the sentiments of the gentleman, the maker of the bill, Senate Bill No. 1120, but I must rise in opposition to it nonetheless, on two grounds: one, that it is unconstitutional, contrary to our State Constitution; and two, that as written, it fails to accomplish the objective that was just stated. What does this bill do? It prevents the court from releasing any defendant pending trial if the person poses a risk to public safety, unless the court decides to issue a bail--posting a bail--presumably in any amount, because the bill does not set a threshold amount, and I will get to that in just a bit. We can debate whether we think the courts should have the discretion to decide whether to release a criminal defendant before trial based on the nature of his or her charge. Some may argue that we cannot rely on the courts to get that decision right, and therefore, we should take discretion away. On the other hand, some may argue that each case is different, each defendant is different, and therefore, it is crucial to allow judges to have that very discretion. It is an important argument, but at the end of the day, it is a moot argument because this General Assembly is constitutionally barred from deciding the issue.

Article V, Section 10(c) of the Pennsylvania Constitution grants, quote, exclusive authority to promulgate rules and procedures for the courts, to the courts. That section of our State Constitution gives the Supreme Court the sole authority to establish those rules, and the Supreme Court has done just that. In fact, that same section of the Constitution carves out exceptions for when the General Assembly may act regarding the administration of our courts. Those exceptions are matters of jurisdiction, statutes

of limitation or repose, matters relating to the testimony of children. If the framers of the State Constitution had intended to include bail rules in that list, they could easily have done so, but they did not.

For that reason, nowhere in Title 18--our crimes and offenses title--or Title 42--which deals with the judiciary--has the General Assembly previously attempted to tell the courts how they must decide bail, and again, the reason for that is clear, because we do not have the authority to do so. In fact, the General Assembly has already acknowledged in 42 Pa.C.S. § 5702, that, quote, bail is to be governed by the general rules of the court. What the State Constitution does say directly about bail is contained in Article I, Section 14, which gives the courts the express authority to hold criminal defendants without bail for capital offenses, offenses involving life imprisonment, or unless no condition or combination of conditions other than imprisonment will reasonably assure the safety of any person and the community. Written right in the State Constitution, giving the courts that authority because of the very concern that is under discussion today in the context of debating this bill.

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has established factors for courts to determine if a defendant presents a danger to any person in the community. Those factors include the defendant's character, relevant behavioral history or past patterns of conduct, the gravity of the charged offense, the conditions of bail reasonably available to the court, and any evidence that tends to show that those conditions would be inadequate to ensure the protection of any person or the community. That is the constitutional framework that we currently have to deal with these individuals, and while again, I certainly understand and appreciate the concern that informs Senate Bill No. 1120, as written, it violates our State Constitution for the reasons as stated. But secondarily, Mr. President, it also would have little effect, because Senate Bill No. 1120 fails to set a bare, a minimum, a floor for bail that would have to be used. So, theoretically, even were Senate Bill No. 1120 to pass this Chamber, pass the House, get to the Governor's desk, and be signed by the Governor, a judge would still be able to release a defendant upon the posting of one penny for bail. So, Mr. President, I submit on the grounds that it is both unconstitutional and, as a practical matter, would have little effect, that the Senate should respectfully vote against Senate Bill No. 1120. Thank you.

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

Senator LAUGHLIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 1120, and quite frankly, I do not think it goes far enough. As someone who represents a district that borders New York State, I see firsthand a lot of the ramifications of cashless bail. I see their news, you know, their news on my TV stations more than probably the rest of you do. And I point to a case from a couple of weeks ago where a person was released, I believe, 21 times, including 9 felonies, and then shot and killed a New York City police officer. And I do not think anybody can stand up here and defend that, and yet we just heard from one who did, from a Senator who did. I think we need to get back to reasonableness within our justice system, and I think this bill moves us in the right direction, and I fully support it.

So, thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator PENNYCUICK. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 1120. Every day I hear from constituents in my district concerned with rising crime rates. I have heard from parents, law enforcement, and healthcare workers about the threat that deadly drugs, like fentanyl, present to our Pennsylvania communities and, more importantly, our youth. Senate Bill No. 1120 aims to protect our neighborhoods by ensuring the individual posing a clear public threat, particularly those with violent criminal convictions--and let me repeat that, convictions--or convictions involving in the distribution of significant amounts of fentanyl, cannot be released on non-monetary bail. Let me be clear, Mr. President, this bill does not change the rules governing criminal procedure or endanger key protections for the accused. Instead, this measure represents a positive step forward in ensuring that our communities are safe and justice is delivered. I am proud to be a co-prime sponsor of this legislation, and I would like to thank my fellow prime sponsors, Senator Robinson and Senator Langerholc, and Chairwoman Baker, for their hard work and leadership on this bill. I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote to help keep our communities safe.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of this legislation. Opponents have raised questions about the constitutionality of Senate Bill No. 1120. Article I, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution states, quote, all prisoners shall be bailable by sufficient sureties. To be clear, Senate Bill No. 1120 does not say anything about when a defendant is non-bailable, it only solidifies what constitutes a sufficient surety. What Senate Bill No. 1120 does say is that released on your own recognizance or unsecured bail is insufficient in these specific circumstances. For persons who repeatedly commit violent felonies, for drug dealers who sell large amounts of fentanyl on our streets, for persons who shoot at or evade arrest on foot, these individuals are still bailable, as the phrase is used in Article I, Section 14. We are merely saying that the non-monetary bail is insufficient. Article V of the Pennsylvania Constitution grants the Supreme Court the power to prescribe general rules governing practice, procedure, conduct of all courts and justice of the peace. The separation of powers provision means that while the General Assembly maintains the authority to make substantive law, the Supreme Court has the power for procedural rules. And although some have said this bill takes authority away from the court and is procedural in nature, we enacted similar bail proposals in the past that withstood the scrutiny from the courts. An example is Title 18, requiring issuing authorities to impose certain bail conditions on domestic violence cases.

Following its enactment, rather than preempting the legislation, the Supreme Court Rules of Criminal Procedure Committee instead incorporated a mention about the conditions into the official comments on the rule. In questions of constitutionality, we always need to consider what the wording is and what the intention of the drafters were, not just what we would like it to mean in current context. There is precision in the wording on bail, and this bill does not violate that in either an overt or subtle manner. It strengthens the practical application of the purpose for bail. This is very much targeted to a small class of individuals accused of serious crimes who are deemed a high risk for flight. Interestingly enough, this morning, I watched a segment on the "Today"

show with the New York City Police Commissioner, Ed Caban, who appeared speaking about concerns in the largest city in New York about what is happening with violent crime in New York City. And oddly enough, just today, he raised concerns about the no-cash bail reform that occurred in New York. So, I believe this measure is an appropriate step for us to take to address and correct the concerns of others about violent crime. We are talking about violent criminals, drug dealers, and those who go after law enforcement, and I believe this is an appropriate remedy for us to take.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, I rise in support of this legislation and to echo prior comments from some of my colleagues. This does not take away the right to bail; this does not inhibit it in any manner; it provides one more safeguard for the residents of this Commonwealth. And, specifically, I would like to point for the record, so that the record is clear and accurate, some prior statements that were made specifically in this Chamber that nowhere in Title 18 or Title 42 has this body addressed the issue of bail. I would point to Title 18 § 2711: Probable cause arrests in domestic violence cases. In that section, it is clear there is actually specifically a subsection dealing with bail, subsection (c) Bail, and it provides additional means for arrests within domestic violence cases. So that the record is clear, this General Assembly has acted in this manner, and there is bail that is codified within statute.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, it was not my intention to speak on this measure, but I do want to rise and share my thoughts and comments with respect to--and support the comments that were made by the gentleman from Bucks County with respect to this particular measure. I am of the belief that this is an unconstitutional measure moving forward. In my view, what we are doing is removing the discretion from those men and women who are magistrates across this Commonwealth the ability to tell them that they cannot make a determination about a particular defendant in front of them. The incident that we are talking about arose in my county, that was laid out earlier in Allegheny County. It was not the statutes that were in place; it was not bail questions that were in place; it was bad judgment exercised by a magistrate who should not have released a person on non-monetary bail. That is the solution to being able to address this, is not necessarily to change the law into an unconstitutional manner to strip away the discretion and authority of magistrates. If you are not happy with the people who are being released in these manners that results sometimes in the things that may have been raised, the remedy is to get rid of the magistrate through that process if it is at that instance or that stage, even on bail hearings, subsequent bail hearings, that may be taking place. Those are the type of things where these things can be exercised, not coming in here and trying to force through, for whatever reason, an unconstitutional measure. If you want to make it a constitutional question, then put forth a constitutional amendment, as we know this Chamber knows how to do very well. Put one of those things forward to

advance this conversation, but I am voting "no" for the reasons I just stated.

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-34

Argall	Culver	Laughlin	Robinson
Aument	Dillon	Martin	Rothman
Baker	DiSanto	Mastriano	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Miller	Stefano
Boscola	Fary	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brewster	Flynn	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brooks	Gebhard	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Brown	Hutchinson	Regan	Yaw
Coleman	Langerholc		

NAY-16

Cappelletti	Fontana	Kearney	Street
Collett	Haywood	Muth	Tartaglione
Comitta	Hughes	Santarsiero	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Kane	Saval	Williams, Lindsey

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1246** and **HB 1661** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**HB 1795 (Pr. No. 2211)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of September 26, 1951 (P.L.1539, No.389), known as The Clinical Laboratory Act, further providing for definitions and for exemptions.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	DiSanto	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Fary	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy

Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney		

NAY-0

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

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

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 99, SB 219, SB 250, SB 363, SB 454 and SB 501** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

**BILL LAID ON THE TABLE**

**SB 577 (Pr. No. 1156)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of October 13, 2010 (P.L.506, No.72), known as the Construction Workplace Misclassification Act, further providing for definitions, for improper classification of employees and for criminal penalties; providing for private right of action; and further providing for administrative penalties, for retaliation for action prohibited, for availability of information and for funding.

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

**SB 577 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 577, Printer's No. 1156, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**SB 920 (Pr. No. 1512)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 29, 2006 (P.L.1471, No.165), known as the Sexual Assault Testing and Evidence Collection Act, further providing for definitions; providing for sexual assault evidence tracking system; further providing for rights of sexual assault victims and for report by Pennsylvania State Police; and providing for waiver for victim.

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

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 1014, SB 1017 and SB 1021** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION**

**SB 1127 (Pr. No. 1513)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to criminal proceedings, providing for citizenship status of criminal defendants.

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

**BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED**

**HB 1409 (Pr. No. 1577)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, further providing for power to set fees; and, in fishing licenses, further providing for license, permit and issuing agent fees.

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

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

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

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF AUCTIONEER EXAMINERS**

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas L. Abruzzese, 209 Cherry Court, Nazareth 18064, Northampton County, Fourteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Matthew Rader, Forty Fort, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF AUCTIONEER EXAMINERS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Gerald A. Rader, P.O. Box 877, 1209 Mensch Road, Skippack 19474, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Isaias Ortiz (Public Member), 111 University Place, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Sharon Dell, Spruce Creek, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Linda Iezzi, 1122 Acorn Drive, South Greensburg 15601, Westmoreland County, Thirty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Stephen Szabo, Pittsburgh, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Sandra Jenkins, 1903 Mather Way, Apartment A, Elkins Park 19027, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor

is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Elisa Brown, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Alexandria Lee (Public Member), 2321 State Street, Alburty 18011, Berks County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Elaine Gowaty, Murrysville, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Nicole Weakland, 750 Miller Street, Hastings 16646, Cambria County, Thirty-fifth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Daniel Kline (Public Member), 548 Monticello Drive, Delmont 15626, Westmoreland County, Thirty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice William Jones, South Abington Township, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Wendy Walsh, 359 Spring Lane, King of Prussia 19406, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District,



for appointment as a member of the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Edward Mihelcic, Indiana, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Edwin Hart, 2305 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem 18017, Northampton County, Eighteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Podiatry, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Dia McCaughan, Coatesville, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Walker Kmetz (Public Member), 272 West High Street, Carlisle 17013, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Podiatry, to serve [for] a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Barbara Wiggan, Mechanicsburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Steven Shannon, 9224 Andover Road, Philadelphia 19114, Philadelphia County, Fifth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Podiatry, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Robert Weber, Trappe, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REGISTRATION  
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,  
LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, John Luciani, 725 Glenwood Drive, York 17403, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Francis Stanton, Richboro, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REGISTRATION  
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,  
LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, G. Windsor Tracy, Jr., 1721 Kriebel Road, Lansdale 19446, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Michael Brinkash, Locust Gap, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

***NOMINATIONS LAID ON THE TABLE***

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

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

**EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS**

***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

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

Which was agreed to by voice vote.

***NOMINATIONS TAKEN FROM THE TABLE***

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

The Clerk read the nominations as follows:

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF AUCTIONEER EXAMINERS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Thomas L. Abruzzese, 209 Cherry Court, Nazareth 18064, Northampton County, Fourteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is

appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Matthew Rader, Forty Fort, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF AUCTIONEER EXAMINERS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Gerald A. Rader, P.O. Box 877, 1209 Mensch Road, Skippack 19474, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Auctioneer Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Isaias Ortiz (Public Member), 111 University Place, Pittsburgh 15213, Allegheny County, Forty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Barber Examiners, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Sharon Dell, Spruce Creek, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Linda Iezzi, 1122 Acorn Drive, South Greensburg 15601, Westmoreland County, Thirty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Stephen Szabo, Pittsburgh, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Sandra Jenkins, 1903 Mather Way,

Apartment A, Elkins Park 19027, Montgomery County, Fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Cosmetology, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Elisa Brown, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

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JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF COSMETOLOGY

February 15, 2024

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of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

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JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

February 15, 2024

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

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JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY EDUCATION AND LICENSURE

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Wendy Walsh, 359 Spring Lane, King of Prussia 19406, Montgomery County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Occupational Therapy Education and Licensure, to serve for a term of three years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Edward Mihelcic, Indiana, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Edwin Hart, 2305 Easton Avenue, Bethlehem 18017, Northampton County, Eighteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Podiatry, to serve for a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Dia McCaughan, Coatesville, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Walker Kmetz (Public Member), 272 West High Street, Carlisle 17013, Cumberland County, Thirty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Podiatry, to serve [for] a term of four years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Barbara Wiggin, Mechanicsburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY

February 15, 2024

To the Honorable, the Senate  
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JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REGISTRATION  
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,  
LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, John Luciani, 725 Glenwood Drive, York 17403, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Francis Stanton, Richboro, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REGISTRATION  
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,  
LAND SURVEYORS AND GEOLOGISTS

February 15, 2024

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

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, G. Windsor Tracy, Jr., 1721 Kriebel Road, Lansdale 19446, Montgomery County, Twenty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Michael Brinkash, Locust Gap, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

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

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

Ordered, That the Governor be informed accordingly.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RISES**

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

**SB 497 (Pr. No. 1517) (Amended) (Rereported) (Concurrence)**

An Act providing for advanced manufacturing facilities and infrastructures through business partnerships with State-related institutions; establishing the Max Manufacturing Initiative Fund and Max Manufacturing Endeavor Loan Fund; providing for prevailing wage; and imposing powers and duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development.

**BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator STEFANO. 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 916, SB 973, SB 998, SB 1092, SB 1132, SB 1133, SB 1134, SB 1139, SB 1144 and HB 1477.**

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, APRIL 10, 2024

9:30 A.M.	URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING (to consider House Bills No. 775, 1207 and 1567)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
10:00 A.M.	LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Bills No. 761 and 1109)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

**PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**

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

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, I rise today alongside my friend and co-chair of the community college caucus, Senator Boscola, to introduce Senate Resolution No. 246, which recognizes the month of April as Community College Month in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania community colleges serve over 245,000 students from all backgrounds and walks of life. Forty-two percent of community college students come from underrepresented

or minority groups, and these institutions proudly educate the largest number of first-generation and nontraditional students in higher education. These institutions work tirelessly to provide the opportunity of higher education to students who otherwise would not have access to it.

In the past year alone, Pennsylvania community colleges have created over 80 new programs, and 75 percent of these programs as a whole are very high in demand, such as emergency services, healthcare, public safety, manufacturing, and technology. Not only do Pennsylvania community colleges provide an invaluable service to our students, but they also play an indispensable role in the continued health and well-being of our Commonwealth's workforce and economy. As a proud former attendee of the Community College of Allegheny County, I have seen and experienced firsthand the great impact that these institutions have on our constituents throughout the Commonwealth. Thank you to my cosponsor and co-chair, Senator Boscola, for your partnership with me on supporting community colleges, and I encourage my colleagues to join with us in honoring Senate Resolution No. 246 declaring April 2024 as Community College Month in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northampton, Senator Boscola.

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, today I rise to speak on Senate Resolution No. 246, which I co-authored with Senator Robinson. This resolution designates April 2024 as Community College Month in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania's 15 community colleges play an indispensable role in our Commonwealth's system of higher education by providing accessible and affordable postsecondary education, workforce training, and dual enrollment opportunities for students of all stages, all walks of life. Spanning 86 campuses, our community colleges serve more than 245,000 students. For over 60 years, they have served the people of Pennsylvania and continue to work to better meet the needs of their students and the needs of Pennsylvania employers. Community colleges save students tens of thousands of dollars while offering a world-class education. Their unparalleled workforce training and development programs help prepare 87,000 Pennsylvanians for jobs in high-demand fields. Community colleges have opened doors for underrepresented and minority groups who make up about just under half of the student body, as well as countless first-generation and nontraditional college graduates. While I believe that we should celebrate our communities and our community colleges every day--I do believe that every day we should be celebrating them--designating April 2024 as Community College Month in Pennsylvania will draw due attention and praise the invaluable work these institutions do for our communities, our people, and our economy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,484 days since this Commonwealth last passed an increase in our minimum wage. Today, I joined with advocates from across the Commonwealth in the Rotunda to highlight our unconscionable minimum wage. For nearly 18 years, we have failed our minimum-wage and low-wage earners. We have allowed them to live in a never-ending cycle of poverty. However,

last night I circulated a cosponsorship memo on legislation that would raise our minimum wage to \$20 an hour, because for nearly 2 decades, we have allowed our minimum-wage earners to earn these poverty-level wages--cannot be rectified with just small, piecemeal reforms. We need big, meaningful action to lift our minimum-wage workers out of poverty. I am proud to be introducing revolutionary legislation that will give a pay raise to hundreds and thousands of Pennsylvanians who desperately need help.

Mr. President, according to the Department of Labor and Industry's 2024 Minimum Wage Report, nearly 68,000 Pennsylvanians exist on the poverty wage of \$7.25 an hour. An additional 335,000 Pennsylvanians relied on near poverty-level wages between \$7.26 and \$12, many of whom fill full-time positions in childcare, homecare, retail, and hospitality. These are some of the most vital jobs in our Commonwealth, yet compensation for their hard work is often insufficient to afford basic necessities such as rent, transportation, food, and prescriptions. Pennsylvania needs this, Mr. President. Let us get it done. Let us pass a true living wage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr.) in the Chair.**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for a second time, the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Resolution No. 255, which recognizes April as Alcohol Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Today, I join my friend, colleague, and partner in recovery, Senator Kane, to introduce this resolution. In doing so, we want to emphasize the continued importance of alcohol-related education and that support is out there for Pennsylvanians struggling with alcohol. I am 21 years in recovery from alcohol, and I know how hard it is to break free of addiction. However, I also know, with the proper support, recovery is possible, and a life in recovery is full of opportunity.

While most who drink alcohol do moderately without complications, alcohol-related problems are still among the most significant public health issues facing our country. Alcohol use disorder affects 28.8 million adults in the United States, and 140,000 Americans die from alcohol-related causes annually. That is more than the total number of drug overdoses reported by the CDC last year and the fourth-leading preventable cause of death in the nation. In addition, adolescent drinking is a serious public health problem in our country, as it is estimated a further 750,000 boys and girls under the age of 18 exhibit alcohol use disorder. This is especially concerning, as alcohol use during adolescent years interferes with developing brains and can lead to many tragic and unintended consequences, such as injury, sexual assault, overdose, and death.

Therefore, it is essential that the legislature and our State agencies continue to educate Pennsylvanians of all ages on the dangers of alcohol abuse. It is also crucial that we highlight the importance of our wonderful addiction treatment centers, recovery organizations, peer support groups, and many resources available to help people to combat addiction. I urge anyone struggling with alcohol to seek help that is out there for you, and I also urge

friends and family members to encourage loved ones struggling with alcohol to seek treatment, support, and rehabilitation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Chester, Senator Kane.

Senator KANE. Mr. President, I rise to speak on an issue that is close to my heart and one that I had to overcome in my personal life. I join my friend and colleague, Senator Tartaglione, to recognize April as Alcohol Awareness Month. Senate Resolution No. 255 is part of a national effort to increase public awareness and understanding of alcohol-related issues, reduce stigma, and encourage local communities to focus on prevention and treatment of alcohol use disorder, or AUD. Alcohol[ism] is a disease that affects millions of people worldwide, including me. It is a leading cause of preventable death and is impactful on the individuals' families and communities cannot be overstated. Despite this, many people who struggle with alcoholism do not receive the help that they need due to the stigma and a lack of understanding. I have seen firsthand the devastating effect of alcoholism. As a young man, it took hold of my personal life and sent me into a spiral I was not sure I would ever recover from. As a union leader, I saw it rip families apart and even end lives. I know how difficult it can be to confront this disease and seek help, but I also know that recovery is possible.

By designating April as Alcohol Awareness Month in Pennsylvania, we can assure that folks who are just like me, who struggle with alcoholism, know they are not alone and that help is available. I am proud to cosponsor this resolution. I know that we can make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by alcoholism and work towards a healthier, safer, and more informed Pennsylvania. And on a final note, a message to those who may be listening who might need some help, you are not alone. I promise you, no matter how old or young you are, a life of sobriety will lift your spirits and improve your way of thinking for the better. I would also like to say, like many others in recovery, it is beyond your wildest dreams. If you would like to speak to me personally, reach out to my office. My name is Senator John Kane, and I am a recovering alcoholic.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Senator Kane, and thank you very much for this very important resolution. Thank you both.

Without objection, the Chair recognizes, for a third time, the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support Senate Resolution No. 256, which designates April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. I have introduced this resolution together with Senator Bartolotta, Senator Boscola, Senator Cappelletti, Senator Collett, Senator Comitta, Senator Muth, Senator Schwank, and Senator Lindsey Williams to call attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every community. Anyone who has experienced rape, sexual assault, or sexual harassment knows deep physical and emotional trauma. Survivors of sexual violence bear this trauma for the rest of their lives. Rape occurs more frequently than the public realizes. One in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been raped in the United States, according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Additionally, 53 percent of women and 29 percent of men report experiencing contact sexual

violence. The problem is prevalent everywhere, including marginalized communities. For instance, 47 percent of transgender people report having been sexually assaulted at some point in their lives. And while no true costs can be assigned to the emotional and psychological toll of sexual violence, the estimated lifetime cost of rape is \$122,461 per victim, including legal and medical costs and lost productivity.

However, these disheartening statistics do not have to continue. This April and beyond, we can support survivors by believing their stories. We can speak out against offensive gestures, harmful attitudes, and unwanted advances. We can highlight the vital importance of consent and boundaries. We can make our communities safer through prevention education and increasing public awareness. I encourage my colleagues to join me in wearing teal tomorrow. Teal is the color of sexual assault awareness, which is associated with trust, devotion, and healing. Furthermore, the Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect, along with representatives from rape crisis centers, will be in the Capitol tomorrow for an advocacy day. I encourage my colleagues to engage with them and listen to their stories and expertise. Let us continue to empower survivors and encourage our communities to better understand their role in preventing sexual violence.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues to rise and speak in support of Senate Resolution No. 256, which recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month here in Pennsylvania. Devastatingly, every 73 seconds an American is sexually assaulted. Sexual assault can happen anywhere and can happen to anyone regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or age. In fact, according to the CDC, over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact in their lifetimes. And due to its widespread impact, sexual assault is a serious public health concern that is deeply embedded in our communities and affects lifelong health, opportunity, and well-being. Sexual assault is a traumatic event that can have adverse effects to a victim's physical and psychological health. Victims can experience physical trauma, such as bruising; or psychological trauma, such as depression and anxiety. The repercussions of sexual assault can even have a detrimental impact to the victim's personal employment, including extended time off from work, decrease in performance or overall inability to work, or put a strain on personal relationships with family and friends.

Victims of sexual assault deserve proper support and resources to assist in their recovery, something that is not always easy when it comes to navigating governmental and community agencies. As a State Senator, I am committed to funding programs and resources to help victims of sexual assault recover at their own pace. Recovering from sexual assault is not always linear, but it is important to know that you are not alone. I encourage everyone in this Chamber to take steps to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month and support the prevention work happening in the communities we represent by supporting them in the budget this year.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for a second time, the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Cappelletti.

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I rise to speak on Senate Resolution No. 264, recognizing April as [National] Fair Housing Month here in Pennsylvania. Fair Housing Month serves as a reminder that housing is a human right that all Pennsylvanians deserve. I am proud of some of the work we have accomplished since I have become a State Senator. We got the Whole-Home Repairs Program across the finish line to help folks age in place. We passed a property tax and rent rebate expansion, meaning that more Pennsylvanians can qualify for those returns and continue to afford their homes as other costs rise. However, there is still so much work left to do. Last month, Senator Dillon and I unveiled our bill, Senate Bill No. 1095, to cap rent increases by 10 percent for tenants who have rented in the unit the previous year or years. For new tenants, landlords would be capped at a 15 percent rate increase from what the previous tenant had been charged for renting the same unit. This legislation is a moderate approach to stabilizing housing costs and ensuring housing affordability. In the few weeks since we introduced this bill, my office has heard from Pennsylvanians all across the Commonwealth about the egregious rent hikes that they have faced or are facing now.

Most recently, my office heard from a Pennsylvanian in Glen Mills who was informed by their property management that the rent would be increasing by 24 percent; completely unreasonable. Senate Bill No. 1095 caps renewal rates at 10 percent, which offers landlords plenty of flexibility in their pricing without putting renters at a disadvantage. This is one of many proposals we have in the Senate to address housing costs and other housing concerns. Yesterday I spoke on the importance of public health. Well, housing issues are protecting Pennsylvania's public health, because without safe, healthy, and stable homes, Pennsylvanians cannot excel in the ways that they deserve. I am hopeful that we will prioritize these housing solutions and commit ourselves to supporting healthy homes all across the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Saval.

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, I also rise along with my colleagues Senator Cappelletti and Senator Dillon to speak on the resolution to recognize April 2024 as [National] Fair Housing Month in Pennsylvania. It has been 56 years since the national Fair Housing Act was enacted by prohibiting discrimination on the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on a person's race, religion, national origin, sex, and, as amended, ability and family status. This Act was designed to dismantle the racist, classist, and ablest barriers that prevent so many Americans from accessing housing. The Fair Housing Act represents a sea change in our national considerations of housing. And 56 years later, it is our hope that recognition of April as [National] Fair Housing Month will serve as an invitation for us to reflect on how far we have come and galvanize us for the work that remains, so we can bring the promise of housing justice to fruition. The right to housing is a foundational human right. It is considered a foundational right because so many of the other rights we recognize are dependent first and foremost on a person's ability to access a stable place, a home from which they can base and build their lives. Our Commonwealth is experiencing a decades-long housing crisis. Many of the problems we see now have deep roots in redlining, the practices by which governments and policymakers sought to

suppress Black and brown people and communities by dictating where they could live, their access to resources, and their ability to care for their neighborhoods. This crisis is spurred onward by depressed wages, high energy burdens, an epidemic of disrepair for our old homes, and a climate crisis driving conditions that our homes were never designed to weather.

From households marked with eviction records that disrupt their lives for decades—even after successfully having won their case—to senior residents forced from their homes because they cannot afford to adapt them to meet their changing needs; to people who seek to rebuild their lives after incarceration, only to find that they cannot obtain employment because their records are keeping them from finding a place to live; to families living on low incomes who are priced out of the neighborhoods they have lived in for generations and have no place to go, housing and security takes many forms and touches every community. I am sure all of us here in this Chamber can think of family members, neighbors, and constituents who work as hard as humanly possible and still find themselves unable to stabilize their lives and their families because of a system that is stacked against them. In our legislature, there are bills to rectify all of these wrongs and more to build on the incredible protections mandated by the Fair Housing Act so that no one falls through the cracks. For decades, communities and municipalities have worked with all their might to combat housing and security. Our State can show up as an ally, investing in Pennsylvanians with State resources and legislation that meets their needs.

Fair Housing Month is an opportunity to focus our efforts on shifting the current system and protect the freedoms of our constituents to live in happiness and in peace; to contribute their unique gifts and energies to this world that desperately needs them; and all of this happens only after we commit to legislating housing as an indelible right. On behalf of Senator Cappelletti, Senator Dillon, and myself, we would be honored for our colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this important resolution, so that together we may orient our legislature's actions to fight the housing crisis on all its fronts and protect the rights of each and every one of our constituents to a home that is safe, healthy, and stable.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Senator Dillon.

Senator DILLON. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues in support of Senate Resolution No. 262 [264], which recognizes April of 2024 as [National] Fair Housing Month in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Reflecting on our nation's history, we acknowledge the pivotal moments more than 5 decades ago when the Fair Housing Act was passed. It was a landmark step toward ensuring that every American, regardless of race, creed, color, could access housing without facing discrimination. Yet, even as we celebrate the progress that has been made since the passing of the Fair Housing Act, we must acknowledge that our work is not complete. In Pennsylvania, there are still individuals who encounter discrimination when seeking a place to call home. Whether it is based on gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or other factors, such discrimination is unacceptable and must end. In pursuit of this goal, as prior mentioned, Senator Cappelletti and I have recently introduced Senate Bill No. 1095. This is a vital piece of legislation that aims to limit rent increases

by large corporate landlords thereby shielding tenants, especially seniors and parents with young children, from the harsh impact of exorbitant rent hikes during times of financial uncertainty. By safeguarding the stability and affordability of housing, we empower individuals and families to thrive and contribute in our communities. We must continue to fight together for the rights of every Pennsylvanian to live in a home that is safe, affordable, and free from prejudice. Together we can and must ensure that the promise of fair housing is upheld in every corner of our Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## HOUSE MESSAGE

### SENATE BILL RETURNED WITH AMENDMENTS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 37**, with the information the House has passed the same with amendments in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

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

## BILL SIGNED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair wishes to announce the following bill was signed by the President (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the presence of the Senate:

### HB 1295.

## RECESS

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 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 5:22 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.