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SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 10

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2024

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend DR. JAMES HENRY BUCK, JR., of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown, Philadelphia, offered the following prayer:

Greetings.

Shall we pray.

O God of great divine wisdom, guide our Senate in the path of justice and righteousness. Grant our leaders the clarity of vision to discern truth from falsehood, the compassion to uplift the marginalized, and the courage to defend the voiceless. May these, Your servants, govern with integrity, humility, and a commitment to the common good. Bless now this Pennsylvania Senate with unity amidst diversity, fostering cooperation and understanding amongst its Members. Now, may these decisions that they are guided by be influenced by Your wisdom, fairness, and a deep respect for human dignity. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair thanks Reverend Dr. Buck, who is the guest today of Senator Haywood.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

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

SB 761 (Pr. No. 864)

An Act amending the act of December 18, 2001 (P.L.949, No.114), known as the Workforce Development Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; and, in local workforce development areas and regions and local workforce development boards, further providing for plan, functions and responsibilities and providing for technical assistance and data availability and for local performance accountability.

SB 1109 (Pr. No. 1461)

An Act amending the act of December 5, 1936 (2nd Sp.Sess., 1937 P.L.2897, No.1), known as the Unemployment Compensation Law, in compensation, further providing for ineligibility for compensation.

Senator FARRY, from the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing, reported the following bills:

HB 775 (Pr. No. 1357)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in neighborhood blight reclamation and revitalization, further providing for definitions and providing for vacant and blighted property registration; and imposing penalties.

HB 1207 (Pr. No. 1277)

An Act amending Title 68 (Real and Personal Property) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in land banks, further providing for definitions.

HB 1567 (Pr. No. 2286)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 2000 (P.L.724, No.99), known as the Municipal Code and Ordinance Compliance Act, further providing for definitions and for compliance requirement.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Yaw.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, we have no leaves right now.

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

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journal of the Session of February 6, 2024, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of February 6, 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?

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

NAY-0

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

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR ARTHUR L. HAYWOOD PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I rise to introduce our guest, Reverend Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., who opened our Session today with prayer. Dr. Buck is well known as in a number of conversations already in the Senate. He is the senior pastor at the historic Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in Philadelphia. He is a visionary leader, a preacher, and an entrepreneur. He has a level of unapologetic courage and dynamic leadership in the community.

Now, he was born in Port Gibson, Mississippi. He served in the military in the United States Armed Services at Fort Carson, Colorado, 4th Infantry Brigade. He earned his bachelor's degree at Potomac University, a Master's of Divinity at Howard University School of Divinity, and a degree in transformative leadership from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. His doctoral dissertation was on reducing recidivism among African Americans through church-based programs. Now at Grace, he has spearheaded the missions possible. It is a vision and a plan emphasizing a few key pillars: mission, evangelism, discipleship, stewardship, and worship. He is a community champion and has played a pivotal role in bringing a medical clinic, daycare center, and affordable housing to our communities. His ethos is underpinned by service and humility, guided by 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Now, he is also well known for a barbecue restaurant called Southern Flames and is looking at expanding. This restaurant is especially significant not just for the barbecue, but because it employs individuals to give them a second chance in life. Many of

them formerly incarcerated, so they can have a new way of living after incarceration. He is here with his beautiful wife, Jennifer Jill Wilson Buck--thank you for joining--and he is a proud parent of two children. I would ask that the Senate give my guest and our guest a warm Senate welcome.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I just wanted to join my colleague in welcoming Senator [sic] Buck. He is the pastor of my father-in-law's church, and he is a member--as was not mentioned--of the finest fraternity known to man and God, Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. So, I figured that was worth noting. Reverend Buck, thank you for being with us today.

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

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR RYAN P. AUMENT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to introduce my guest for the day, Ali Al-Nawasreh. Ali is a student at Elizabethtown College and is slated to graduate in May 2025 with a bachelor of arts in political science. Ali already earned associate degrees in social sciences, political science, and applied science, general studies from the Harrisburg Area Community College. While at HACC, Ali earned highest academic honors and achieved a 3.95 GPA. Ali works at CVS as a store associate and at Holy Spirit Hospital as a laboratory technical assistant, where Ali draws blood from patients to help diagnose all sorts of medical conditions. Previously, Ali worked for the United States Census Bureau as a census counter, and for Karns Foods, stocking shelves and helping customers. Please join me in welcoming my guest, Ali Al-Nawasreh, to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, good morning everyone. today I am joined by over 40 high school students from 9 schools across my district who are participating in my model Senate program. Every year, I have the pleasure of giving an extraordinary group of future leaders the opportunity to learn about law, government, and the significance of civic engagement. And I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank the incredible educators who have gone above and beyond each year to help make this program a success. These students have been doing some hard work, spanning across three total Sessions, the first two taking place in my district office and the final being here at the Capitol. The students have elected leadership for their caucuses and have even held committee meetings with expert testifiers, where they discuss the legislation that they will be voting on later today. In fact, many of the bills they have considered are real pieces of legislation introduced by Members of this very Chamber. After

listening to their conversations, I must say that I have been inspired by the way they approach roadblocks and issues. We all have something to learn from these bright young adults. I can only hope that they feel inspired from the model Senate program and choose to pursue a career in government service. So, if the students would please rise, I will ask my colleagues to give them a warm welcome. They are just a great group of kids, and we should be proud to have them here today.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome the Lincoln University Men's Basketball Team to celebrate their 2024 CIAA Men's Basketball Championship title. It was a historic season for Lincoln, capping off with their first CIAA Championship victory in nearly 110 years. The Lincoln Lions went on to the CIAA tournament to make up where they fell short last year. It was a close game and an intense competition, but Lincoln emerged victorious with a 54-51 victory over Fayetteville State. Congratulations to each member of the team, and a special thank you to the coaches who supported these student-athletes along the way, including Head Coach Jason Armstrong and assistant coaches Keyshawn McMahon, Anwar King, and Kania Pollock. It has been a phenomenal year for Lincoln University. Whether fighting for funding for their school, and all of the State-related institutions, or winning basketball championships, I want all of Lincoln University students and staff to know that I am honored to be your State Senator. It is such a pleasure to see you learn and grow and overcome adversity and make history in the process. I, and all of us, are so proud of each and every one of you, and we are thrilled to have you joining us today. Please join me in extending a warm welcome and congratulations to the CIAA men's basketball champions, the Lincoln University Lions.

[Applause.]

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

Senator A.H. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I am extremely proud of the achievement of this team, but most significantly, I am proud to be here today on behalf of my brother-in-law who has passed away, Gregory Smith. He was a proud graduate and alumnus of Lincoln University. He spoke glowingly over the years of what the university did for him, his life, how it changed him as a man, and how it provided for his family. He went on to be a lawyer, but most importantly, he decided to become a member of their board because of what it has done for so many generations. And to have them come here as a team only illustrates what the possibilities are for young people all across America, in particular those who are underserved and sometimes not recognized, what they can achieve if we just pour a little bit into them, and they will do the rest. I am extremely honored for them to be here today, and certainly my colleague Senator Comitta, for acknowledging their achievement as a basketball team, but

certainly as Lincoln men also as well. Thank you very much, and I want to extend a warm Senate welcome to them, again, if I could.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR CHRISTINE M. TARTAGLIONE PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome and introduce an exciting group of Temple Owls to the Pennsylvania Senate. These students have come all the way to Harrisburg to meet with legislators and advocate for their great university here in the Capitol during the Owls on the Hill day. As some of the students may know, I have the honor to serve on the Temple Board of Trustees, and I love seeing people up here advocating for Temple. So, Mr. President, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in giving this great group of students a warm Senate welcome.

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I join my colleague, Senator Tartaglione, in recognizing the Owls on the Hill. I have the privilege of representing Temple University, a school that my mother and father both graduated from. That is where they met. I would not be here if it was not for Temple, quite literally. My siblings--my sister taught at Temple; both of my brothers went to Temple; I am the only member of my family who did not go to Temple, but I have the privilege of representing the university. And so, I am so pleased and proud to have Owls on the Hill here with us advocating for Temple University, and hopefully, something we do will inspire some of these young people to want to serve as we do.

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

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR JAY COSTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome a legal intern who has been working in our office, Elsie Furhman. Elsie is a student at Penn State Dickinson Law School, having previously earned a bachelor's degree at San José State University and also a master's at Barry University. She is a member of her school's moot court team and a pupil of the James [S.] Bowman American Inns of Court. Since she has been with our office over the course of the past several months, Elsie has helped draft two standalone pieces of legislation on the topics of housing and community and on Election Code matters. She has also drafted an amendment to Title 23 on persons authorized to solemnize marriages, and she has conducted research and drafting of memos of topics of Right-To-Know Law, equal protection, and a right to record. While with us, she has also taken on initiatives to get

involved in strategy meetings with our team and learn as much as she can about our legislative process. Elsie is very involved in her community as well and looks for volunteer opportunities at every chance in her school, but also outside of her school. She has worked with the Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity on their pardon project, where she has helped reform citizens, expunged their records to help them obtain a second chance at life. She has also worked with the Pennsylvania Bar Association Divisions for Young Lawyers [Young Lawyers Division] providing free legal assistance to first responders, military veterans, and their spouses. And finally, as I mentioned, she is very active in her church community when she is not studying or volunteering or working with us. Her hobbies include Zumba dancing and also singing in her church choir. Elsie is interested in a field of governmental law and policy work--and after she finishes law school, she hopes to work in Congress and actually someday become an elected official herself and helping her community, her constituents, and the residents of the Commonwealth at large overcome economic and social barriers that hinder them from achieving their right to live a comfortable life. It has been our honor to work closely with Elsie and the work that she has done with our Caucus and our legal team--and her work in the office has been exemplary--and I would like to give her the best wishes from our Caucus, but also all the Members of the Senate here today, wishing Elsie her best as she moves forward in her next chapter as it relates to her law school career and beyond. I ask my colleagues to give her a warm welcome, Elsie, who is here with us today.

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

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR KATIE J. MUTH PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a very special guest from the 44th Senatorial District, Joseph Sherwood, the executive director of the Chester County Library System. Joe has spent more than three decades working in Pennsylvania libraries, including the past 12 years serving in his current role as executive director of the Chester County Library System. In this role, Joe oversees 16 member libraries with 18 library facilities, many of which are located in the 44th Senatorial District, and others across the county represented by both Senator Kane and Senator Comitta. Prior to his current role, Joe served as the director of the Tredyffrin Township Libraries, director of the Lower Providence Community Library, executive director of the Upper Perkiomen Valley Library, and he began his career in extension services, bookmobiles, for the Norristown Public Library in Montgomery County. Joe has also been an active member and has served in several roles at the Pennsylvania Library Association since 1999. Joe has dedicated his career to prioritizing service to the public, ranging from designing new bookmobiles to supervising several library construction projects aimed at improving public access and services.

Mr. President, there are a lot of exciting things happening in libraries across the 44th Senatorial District and in the Chester County Library System. Earlier this month, I was thrilled to join the Chester County Library System for a groundbreaking

ceremony for an expansion project on Honey Brook Community Library, which I was able to allocate a \$1 million grant for back in October of 2022. In addition to helping Honey Brook Library, my team and I have also been working very closely with Joe and his staff to establish collections of decodable books for students who are dyslexic at all 10 libraries in the 44th Senatorial District and to offer training and professional development on these collections for librarians and our community members.

Mr. President, there is no better time to welcome a library professional to the Senate or raise awareness of the great resources our community libraries provide than this week, during National Library Week. I want to thank Senator Fontana for his partnership in again introducing a Senate resolution, Senate Resolution No. 265, designating this week, April 7 through 13, as National Library Week in Pennsylvania. First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country every April. The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library!," promoting the idea that in our always-online world, libraries give us a space to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. Whether preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family, learning how to read, or maybe you just love to read, libraries provide an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs.

Mr. President, going to the library has been a huge part of my life. My parents made sure that every week I went to the public library in Murrysville, Pennsylvania, and also Delmont, Pennsylvania, as I grew up in western PA. And I continued those journeys to libraries everywhere I went, whether it was the Penn State Library or in Arizona State and now here in Chester County. I always felt the library was the safe place to go to study, to learn, to unwind, and to focus. And I am grateful to have 10 public libraries across the 44th Senatorial District: all unique in their shape, size, but consistent in their resources, community programming, and wonderful staff. We need to find ways as a legislature to support our libraries and encourage families to take advantage of the great free resources available in all of our community libraries. Thank you to Joe, all the librarians across the 44th Senatorial District and the Commonwealth, for the work that you do and the resources you provide for all of us. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for their support of Senate Resolution No. 265 and also ask that they give my guest, Joe Sherwood from Chester County Library System, a warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR STEVEN J. SANTARSIERO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Amber Paulino, a law student who has been serving as a legal extern with the Senate Democratic Committee on Judiciary this spring. Amber is a rising 3L at Penn State Dickinson Law School, where she is president of both the American Constitution Society and the Latinx Law Student Association. Amber also

holds a B.A. from the University of South Florida, where she studied history and political science, and a graduate certificate in paralegal studies from the George Washington University. Prior to her externship with the State Senate Democratic Committee on Judiciary, Amber served as a legal extern in Senator Costa's office this past fall and, notwithstanding that, she came back to us this spring. So, we are very grateful for that. This semester, Amber has analyzed bills and researched legal issues that came before the Committee on Judiciary. Of note, Amber did comparative research of emerging issues, including how other States handle AI-generated child sexual abuse materials. This summer, Amber will be clerking for the United States Senate Committee on Judiciary in Washington, DC. That is a very impressive position to hold, and we are very excited for her taking on that role and cannot wait to hear how she does. I am sure she will do a great job as she did with us. So, with that, Mr. President, I ask that the Senate join me in wishing Amber the best in her future endeavors and extending to her our traditional warm Senate welcome.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Rothman.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, no leaves today.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Aument requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Rothman. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

CALENDAR

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SB 497 (Pr. No. 1517) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 497, as further amended by the Senate?

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in the amendments made by the House to Senate Bill No. 497, as further amended by the Senate.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Bill No. 497, the Max Manufacturing Initiative Act. Under this bill, grant and loan opportunities will be available to eligible applicants engaged in advanced manufacturing within the Commonwealth. It will also allow State universities to more easily partner with engineering entities to enhance research capabilities, promote business alliances, produce high-value products, and most importantly, create well-paying local Pennsylvania jobs. In fact, right in my district, at the Pittsburgh airport, Neighborhood 91 is making progress as the first development in the world to condense and connect all components of the additive manufacturing supply chain into one powerful production ecosystem. With examples like this and the opportunities Senate Bill No. 497 provides, there is real potential to establish Pennsylvania and its universities and business partnerships as international leaders in the development, testing, and implementation of cutting-edge advances in science and technology. We have worked closely with stakeholders, and the bill passed both the House and Senate last year with strong bipartisan support. Senate Bill No. 497 is supported by DCED, the Pittsburgh Airport, Neighborhood 91, Pittsburgh Works Together, the Pittsburgh Building Trades and Construction Council [Pittsburgh Regional Building and Construction Trades Council], the Laborers' Union, and the Pittsburgh Airport [Area] Chamber of Commerce. Thank you to my colleagues for your support of this important legislation, and I respectfully ask for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise to ask the maker of the bill to rise for interrogation.

The PRESIDENT. Will Senator Robinson stand for interrogation?

The gentleman waves off. You may speak on the bill.

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, it is unfortunate that the maker of the bill does not want to answer questions about his own bill. So, for the public's awareness, I think it is important to bring up the questions regarding this legislation. Senate Bill No. 497 may have some level of good intention, if applied correctly, to fund projects that help the people of the Commonwealth, but the language of Senate Bill No. 497 is incredibly vague and leaves a lot of unanswered questions. Unfortunately, the history in this building is the devil is often in the details, and without a clear understanding of all eligible entities that could benefit from up to \$2 million grant or low-interest loan, it is difficult to support this bill. If this bill is a way for the State to offer grant funding for the build-out of energy sources that pollute our air and water, then this would be a bad idea. If this bill would allow for projects that

could assist with soil remediation or PFAS removal, or products developed to help water protection and flooding, sure, this could be a great bill. If this bill allows for the mining of crypto and enhanced oil recovery--as mining is mentioned specifically in the bill language--or coal mining, then this would be very bad for the people of the Commonwealth. And so, I have a list of good and bad things just off the top of my head that I generated, thinking you could have great initiatives and innovation such as having zero waste manufacturing or how we remove toxic chemicals from the products we already use so that they are healthy or that we could retrofit, as mentioned in the bill language, people's homes, schools, public facilities, small businesses with technology that would make them more energy efficient, not reliant on fossil fuel energy, or even provide flood mitigation measures that most homes do not have, as we see these increased weather incidents occurring.

And so, while there is potential for this bill to have a positive impact on the people of this Commonwealth, the mention, or the lack of definition, for private entities is so broad that private equity companies seem to be eligible for the funding in these types of projects. Also, that additionally, on page 7, the bill indicates that DCED can issue grants under this program for advancement in the fields of industrial processes such as mining, manufacturing. So, again, what are we mining? What is the people's money going to be used for? As we know that data centers and crypto mining are energy-intense processes, and we already have grid reliability issues with power with people not being able to have homes and their electricity 3 days after a heavy rainstorm. Also, the bill was amended in the House in December to add language regarding project labor agreements, which I was supportive of, and unfortunately, that was stripped out yesterday in the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations. The amendment yesterday just asks that the applicants, again, could be a very broad range of applicants, make a good faith effort to recruit and employ workers from the local labor market.

We should make a good faith effort here in the Senate to actually ensure that taxpayers are supportive of how their money is being used and that benefits them. And again, as I said, Senate Bill No. 497 also creates a low-interest loan program offering 2 percent loans to multimillion and multibillion-dollar corporations--should they apply to be in one of these programs. And here in Pennsylvania, the average mortgage rate is over 7 percent. So, again, I am wary of this legislation, at the broad language, the lack of detail seems to allow for entities that are, what I would argue are corporate players in the game that often are not worker friendly, are not friendly to our environment, and are not consumer friendly also for that matter. So, this is public money, and a public grant program and those details should be shared, and there should be more information about how this program is going to be run and who is eligible, and unfortunately, that information is not available. And I encourage a "no" vote, because making informed decisions requires information which we do not have.

So, thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

YEA-46

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

NAY-4

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

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

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 67, SB 346, SB 365, SB 667, SB 832 and SB 920 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 975 (Pr. No. 1518) -- 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.

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, as I look around this Chamber today, I think I can say that for most of us, we remember our school days as a relatively carefree time in our young lives. Most assuredly, we were not thinking about walking through metal detectors or backpack searches and bulletproof barriers. The children of today now face a very different reality. Those days of innocence that most of us shared have been shattered. As a student, a teacher, or school employee, imagine for a moment the fear that comes in those moments when a call of an active shooter or a bomb threat is issued for their school. Imagine for 1 minute how

helpless their parents and loved ones would feel during this time of uncertainty and terror. That day came for Farrell High School in Mercer County and Meadville High School in Crawford County a year ago, two of multiple schools that were terrorized by a false report of an active shooter last March.

There is simply no excuse imaginable in treating the offense of committing a hoax like this as anything but other than a serious crime. The tremendous stress caused by these cruel criminal threats do not end with the school. Emergency responders and law enforcement officers are the ones racing to an unpredictable situation, one where they have no idea what awaits them. They, too, also carry a heavy burden in the face of this crime. If we do not take swift action to punish these false reports of a threat made to our schools, they will inevitably someday cause accidents, injuries, or worse. And I cannot stress this enough: it does not matter if these threats are made during the schools' regular hours, during weekend activities, or during any after-school programs that only occur periodically. When it comes to terrorizing students, teachers, staff, and parents, there is no normal operations standard. To that extent, this legislation will not only increase this offense to a felony of the third degree, but also allow the courts to sentence anyone convicted of the offense to pay the cost of an evacuation or response that resulted from this false threat. There has to be consequences for making these threats that terrorize our communities. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 975. Thank you.

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

Senator COLEMAN. Mr. President, anonymous tip lines have been weaponized against our school districts. A little bit over 2 weeks ago, Saucon Valley School District had to close 2 days in a row due to bomb threats. Incredibly, the school district received another threat at the end of February. At the end of 2022, the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute was closed for 4 days in a row due to threats. In between, there have been multiple other closures because of hoax threats to schools in the Allentown School District, Parkland area school districts, and others. This behavior is absolutely unacceptable. The Commonwealth has enhanced penalties in place for a number of other offenses. Given the prevalence and frequency of hoax threats our educational institutions are receiving, it is time to ensure that the perpetrators of these crimes face serious consequences for their actions. Beyond the educational disruption that occurs from these hoaxes, our schools and local municipalities incur significant costs in evacuating and clearing buildings. Senate Bill No. 975 allows those costs and others to be recovered as part of the sentence. Hoax threats are a serious offense, and I urge my colleagues to vote in an affirmative vote. Thank you.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-40

Argall	Culver	Kane	Robinson
Aument	Dillon	Langerholc	Rothman
Baker	DiSanto	Laughlin	Santarsiero
Bartolotta	Dush	Martin	Schwank

Boscola	Farry	Mastriano	Stefano
Brewster	Flynn	Miller	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Coleman	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Comitta	Hutchinson	Regan	Yaw

NAY-10

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

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 1018 (Pr. No. 1275) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 2 (Administrative Law and Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in practice and procedure, providing for child victims and witnesses.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware, Senator Kearney.

Senator KEARNEY. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 1018 seeks to correct a gap in protections for child victims and witnesses within the Department of Human Services administrative law setting, the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. As you may know, the bureau hears appeals on all DHS findings and determinations, and this can encompass hundreds of different varieties of claims, whether from someone eligible for SNAP to finding if child abuse is substantiated. I have been working on this legislation since 2019, when a distraught constituent shared her and her son's story. Her son's father appealed a DHS finding of child abuse, and the case was brought up before the Bureau of Hearings and Appeals within DHS. There, the father was permitted to act as his own attorney before a panel of Administrative Law Judges and cross-examine his 7-year-old son without the child's mother or any child advocate present. This episode retraumatized the child and never should have been allowed. In criminal and civil court proceedings, our statutes provide for child victims and witnesses to have the ability to provide testimony remotely, by a video conference or recorded statement. They are also often assigned a child advocate to help explain the court proceedings, provide a comforting presence, and advocate on the child's behalf during these intense domestic cases. So, I introduced this legislation which provides for the same kinds of provisions for alternative testimony and advocates for children that we have in Title 42 but not in the DHS administrative law setting. I think we all know that there are more comprehensive improvements needed in Pennsylvania's child abuse system, but this is an important step that we can take without further delay. This bill was supported by several children's advocacy groups, it was recommended by the

Auditor General's 2021 report on DHS's Bureau of Hearings and Appeals. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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 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 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 Erie, Senator Laughlin.

Senator LAUGHLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to address a matter of paramount importance: protection of law-abiding Pennsylvanians from the threat posed by illegal migrants, who flout the laws of our Commonwealth. We have a duty to uphold the rule of law and ensure those who violate it are held accountable, regardless of their immigration status, and quite frankly, it is stunning that we even have to run a bill like this. Earlier this year, two

NYPD officers were assaulted by illegal migrants. Laken Hope Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student at Augusta University in Georgia, was brutally murdered by an illegal migrant, and this really touched home for me because my own daughter is a 22-year-old nursing student. These offenders had been previously arrested by law enforcement and were back on the streets. They are not isolated incidents. Let us not forget that behind each statistic is a human being--someone's child, parent, brother, or sister, or friend--whose life has been forever altered by the actions of an illegal migrant. We owe it to the victims and their families to take decisive action to prevent further tragedies. Across this country, we have seen countless examples of illegal migrants committing heinous crimes against innocent Americans, from murders and assaults to drug trafficking and human smuggling. The toll of illegal migrants on our communities cannot be overstated. This is unconscionable and it must be remedied.

Senate Bill No. 1127 is a crucial step towards fulfilling our duty. This bill mandates, this bill mandates that the Attorney General or the district attorney must notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement, also known as ICE, at any point during the course of the criminal proceeding when they obtain information reasonably indicating the individual is in our country illegally. This simple yet vital measure will ensure that illegal migrants who commit crimes in Pennsylvania are not allowed to evade justice and continue to pose a threat to our communities. So let me be clear, this is not, this is not about targeting migrants as a whole. Pennsylvania has a long and proud history of welcoming migrants who come here legally, contribute to our society, and abide by our laws. This is about holding accountable those who choose to disregard our laws and endanger the safety and the well-being of our citizens. By notifying ICE of individuals who are in our country illegally and have committed crimes--who are here illegally and committed crimes--we are not only upholding the rule of law, but also taking proactive steps to protect our communities from further harm. Mr. President, I want to express my profound gratitude to Senator Langerholc for his partnership and to our respective staff for their hard work on this vital piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support Senate Bill No. 1127 and send a clear and concise message that Pennsylvania will not tolerate criminal activity within our borders. By holding accountable those who violate our laws, we are fulfilling our duty to protect the safety and well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to Senate Bill No. 1127, which would require Pennsylvania prosecutors to involve Federal civil immigration enforcement in State criminal legal proceedings when someone who is an undocumented immigrant has been arrested and arraigned. All Pennsylvania residents have a right to safety, peace, and prosperity, and our role as a legislature is to uphold these rights. The bill at hand, Senate Bill No. 1127, threatens to undermine these rights, positioning people who seek to build happy, connected lives against each other. Senate Bill No. 1127 will have no impact on community safety. In fact, it will likely harm efforts to improve safety. Similar agreements between ICE and local law enforcement in States such as North Carolina and Arizona have not affected crime or clearance rates, because criminal justice officials

became entangled in immigration enforcement rather than the job they were hired to do. This bill muddles Federal civil procedures with State criminal legal procedures, denying defendants their rights to due process in deterring access to justice for defendants and victims alike. It will further erode the integrity of Pennsylvania's criminal legal system, creating a climate of fear for defendants, victims, and witnesses, and in doing so, undercutting our State's efforts to advance justice and accountability. And finally, in contradistinction to what my colleague from Erie County suggested, this bill is an anti-immigrant bill and will further undermine the revitalization of our State.

Pennsylvania is growing because immigrants can see their futures here. Across our Commonwealth, 1 in every 14 residents is an immigrant, and among our entrepreneurs, this number swells to 1 in every 10. The labor of immigrants drives our scientific advancements, fuels our hospitality industry, grows the incredible local food we enjoy, and raises our homes and buildings. Immigrants are neighbors, business owners, taxpayers, and workers. They are integral to Pennsylvania's diverse and thriving communities and make extensive contributions that benefit us all. Pennsylvania is home to people whose families have lived here for generations, and people who are newly arrived, brought by the same hopes and dreams that have inspired people to put down their roots here for centuries.

All of our stories and experiences, our successes, our struggles, and our joys add to the vibrant tapestry of our Commonwealth. We should be doing all that we can to welcome those who seek to make their homes here and create their futures as part of Pennsylvania's future. Instead, we have Senate Bill No. 1127, which serves as a distraction from our legislature's lack of meaningful action to prevent gun violence and alleviate poverty--serves as a distraction at best. This is a regressive bill that is in conflict with what all of us seek to build in our Commonwealth and for our Commonwealth. I will be voting "no," and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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. We know that there are illegal migrants in our country. We know that we are paying millions of dollars to house and support them. We know that they came here illegally. We know that some of them have committed unspeakable acts of violence on our citizens. We do not know how many are here illegally, and what I do not know is why do we continue to protect these people?

POINT OF ORDER

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, point of order.

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

Senator COSTA. I think the gentleman is referencing Members who may not be in support of the measure, questioning their motives, which I do not think is appropriate.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Not at all.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair reminds the Members that we cannot question motives of other Members. The gentleman may proceed on the bill.

Senator LANGERHOLC. Mr. President, just points of clarification, I was not speaking to the motive of Members of this General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT. Member may continue on the underlying bill.

Senator LANGERHOLC. This bill is simple. If you are here illegally, if you break the law, you must be held accountable. It could not be any more simple. Boil it down to the root words of this legislation, that is what it is. You commit a violation of law in the State of Pennsylvania, during this criminal proceeding, the law enforcement is required to notify ICE. It is that simple. This bill is one step closer to addressing the lawlessness that has permeated our country and continues to permeate our country on a daily basis. Unfortunately, this will not solve what has transpired over the past several years as a result of failed policies. But this will address those who are here illegally. I cannot emphasize that enough. Take a poll. Walk outside this building. Walk into your districts. Take a poll and ask your constituents: what do you think we should do if there is someone here who is here illegally that we know that has broken our law? Should we notify the Federal authorities that they are here illegally?

It defies common sense. The fact that we stand here, and I have to stand here and argue for this type of legislation. I cannot emphasize it enough. It is very clear: you are here because you violated the law. Or if you are here and you violated the law, then you are going to be held accountable. It is very clear, could not be more crystal clear. It is common sense. Why do we not stand up and protect our citizens for once? It is disgusting that our country has gotten to this point. It is disgusting that we have to turn on the news and see the headlines of what was referenced prior. It is disgusting. You have a chance here today to vote to show your constituents where you are at on this matter. Do you think those who are here illegally that break Pennsylvania law should be held accountable, and we should notify Federal authorities that they are here illegally? Could not be more simple. Do the right thing. I urge support of this legislation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

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

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, given the comments of the last Member, I would like to know if it is appropriate to have comments on what is "disgusting" that comes out of the General Assembly?

The PRESIDENT. I believe the gentleman was describing what he saw on the news as disgusting, not necessarily what was coming out of the General Assembly.

Senator HAYWOOD. Mr. President, I would like to know if it would be appropriate for me to talk about what is "disgusting" that I see in the news?

The PRESIDENT. We are on the underlying bill. So, if the gentleman wants to proceed on the underlying bill, you can, but anything outside of the underlying bill is not.

Senator HAYWOOD. Whether "disgusting" or not?

The PRESIDENT. If it is relating to the underlying bill, feel free to speak on it.

Senator HAYWOOD. Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Vogel.

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

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-34

Argall	Culver	Laughlin	Robinson
Aument	Dillon	Martin	Rothman
Baker	DiSanto	Mastriano	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Miller	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	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 AUMENT.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 363 (Pr. No. 1276) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in driving after imbibing alcohol or utilizing drugs, further providing for driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance and for authorized use not a defense.

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 454, SB 501 and **SB 577** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 916 (Pr. No. 1510) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

SB 973 (Pr. No. 1515) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 998 (Pr. No. 1516) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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 AUMENT.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1092 (Pr. No. 1405) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SB 1132 (Pr. No. 1470) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

SB 1133 (Pr. No. 1471) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

SB 1134 (Pr. No. 1472) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SB 1139 (Pr. No. 1473) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1144 (Pr. No. 1484) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 1477 (Pr. No. 1663) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 263, ADOPTED

Senator AUMENT, without objection, called up from page 6 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 263**, entitled:

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.

On the question,
 Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 263. We were approached last week by the Department of Military Affairs, our National Guard leadership, on expressing support for partnership with Sweden. In March of this year, Sweden officially joined NATO, ending 200 years of nonalignment and neutrality. Thus is the nature of the threat they face in Eastern and Northern Europe, a historic time for them and a historic time for our own National Guard. Our National Guard has had a very successful 31-year partnership with Lithuania, supporting operations and working together in deployments around the world with our own Pennsylvania National Guard with the Lithuanian Ground [Land] Forces. I would say it is the most successful State Partnership Program in the nation. The importance of Pennsylvania participating in--not just with Lithuania, but potentially Sweden as a partner nation--will improve our joint training exercises, exchanges, and interoperability. A beautiful aspect of this, of course, it is a Federal program. So, it does not cost us anything and improves the combat ability and the capacity of our own men and women in uniform. Nationally, and at the multinational level within NATO, of course, it improves our interoperability and our training capability and doctrinal language as well when we are on mission with Lithuania, and hopefully, Sweden.

Over 100 nations are aligned with our States and State Partnership Programs. Twenty-nine States have multiple nations that they are partnered with, and that includes up to three--such as North Dakota is partnered with three different countries; Texas with three; Vermont with three; and Pennsylvania having one of the largest National Guards in the nation, I would say the best National Guard in the nation, we are ready to do this, and our leadership at the [National] Guard Bureau here in the States say we are ready to go. Geographically, it makes sense to join partnership with Sweden since we have been working with Lithuania, which is in the Baltic region, and Sweden is just across the Baltic Sea from Lithuania. It just makes great sense. Globally, with Finland last year and now Sweden, the 32nd member of NATO, it just makes good sense. As we think back to the founding of NATO in 1949, according to Lord Ismay, who said NATO was created to keep the Germans down--coming out of two world wars--keep the Germans down, the Soviets out, and the Americans in, it was a hard-learned lesson after two world wars. After the First World War, the United States rapidly demobilized its 4-million-man armed forces and withdrew as quickly as it could back to the United States, leaving no forces in Europe by 1920, contributing, in part, to a security vacuum in Central Europe that would be filled by nefarious political forces later on. Many of the leaders in World War II, such as Patton, who was a lieutenant colonel in the First World War; or General Marshall, who was a colonel in the First World War; or Eisenhower, who was a major during the First World War but did not make combat operations; they saw and learned the hard lesson of the importance of American involvement overseas, preventing great wars and a third catastrophic world war.

The Kingdom of Sweden has been edging towards this for some decades, participating in exercises with the United States and NATO since the 1990s. I, myself, as a colonel in the Army, participated in six NATO exercises in the Baltic region. In all six of those operations, Sweden was a key part. I served 4 years within NATO. Three of my combat deployments were with NATO to Afghanistan, and the last mission I had was leading men and women from 18 different countries that included Sweden. If you think back to the creation of NATO in 1949, I think the key aspect of the NATO alliance is an attack upon one is an attack upon all members. That is Article 5 of the Atlantic Treaty. The importance of NATO and Pennsylvania's role in supporting NATO countries, I think, is really defined. When Article 5 was created, it was surmised that it would be declared upon the Soviet invasion of West Germany, causing a third world war. The only time Article 5, however, was invoked was after our being attacked on 9/11, 2001. After we were attacked on that horrific dark day in 2001, all of NATO came together, invoked Article 5, and deployed to Afghanistan to support our mission. And I already expressed my firsthand experience of serving alongside NATO members as well as soldiers from Sweden. So, with this, our Pennsylvania National Guard is prepared to extend our partnership to Sweden, maintaining our excellent relationship with Lithuania. It is a win-win for our Commonwealth; a win-win for our men and women in uniform. Mr. President, I ask for an affirmative vote for Senate Resolution No. 263.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

**STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION
PROPERTY REQUEST No. 1 of 2024,
RESOLUTION A, ADOPTED**

Senator AUMENT, without objection, called up from page 7 of the Calendar, **State System of Higher Education Property Request No. 1 of 2024, Resolution A**, entitled:

RESOLUTION A

RESOLVED, That State System of Higher Education Property Request No. 1 of 2024, transmitted by the State System of Higher Education under the Public School Code of 1949 to the General Assembly under date of March 4, 2024, and introduced March 18, 2024, which is incorporated herein by reference, be approved.

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I move that the Senate adopt State System of Higher Education Property Request No. 1 of 2024, Resolution A.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion to adopt State System of Higher Education Property Request No. 1 of 2024, Resolution A?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-1

Coleman

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

Ordered, That the House of Representatives and the State System of Higher Education be informed accordingly.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

Senator DUSH. 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 761, SB 1109, HB 775, HB 1207 and HB 1567.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

10:00 A.M.	EDUCATION (public hearing on Grow PA - post-secondary and career preparation reform)	Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 479, 645, 916, 973, 1056, 1092, 1109, 1132, 1133, 1134 and 1139; and House Bills No. 358 and 1419)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Committee Conference Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024

9:30 A.M.	COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (to consider Senate Bill No. 85; and Senate Resolution No. 223)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
11:30 A.M.	CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 1165, 1173 and 1174)	Room 8E-B East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, recognizing the strong importance of faith, free speech, and religious liberty to so many people across this Commonwealth, I have proudly introduced Senate Resolution No. 257 to officially recognize April 2024 as Faith Month in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our Commonwealth was founded as a haven for religious freedom and tolerance by William Penn, who boldly proclaimed: "No people can be truly happy, though under the greatest enjoyment of civil liberties, if abridged of their [the] freedom of [their] consciences as to their religious profession and worship." He stated even more prophetically: men must be ruled by God or be ruled by tyrants. Pennsylvania and the other original 12 colonies that founded our nation were clearly conceived as one nation under God. Today, religious liberty is firmly enshrined and deeply embedded throughout our State and Federal governments. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Constitution begins: "WE, the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and humbly invoking His guidance, do ordain and establish this Constitution." It is

on our currency, it is in the Pledge of Allegiance, and of course, the Declaration of Independence, which unquestionably establishes the United States of America was born of the unanimous declaration that we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights based on the Laws of Nature and Nature's God appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world, and acknowledging our reliance on the protection of divine Providence. From our first President to the current chief executive occupant, we continue to acknowledge the free expression of faith and almighty God as America's first freedom. According to President George Washington: "it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly [to] implore his protection and favor." President James Madison, known as the father of the Constitution in his time, one of the primary architects, stated that: "Religious bondage shackles and debilitates the mind and unfits it for every noble enterprise,--and--every expanded prospect." Senate Resolution No. 257 recognizes the eternal vigilance and divine providence is desperately needed to stop the relentless intolerant discrimination, persecution, and criminalization of people of faith, private employers, and especially faith-based charities which have a rich history of helping the sick, poor, and afflicted. By designating April 24 as Faith Month, the Pennsylvania Senate is encouraging all Commonwealth citizens to respectfully engage and freely share their faiths, just as William Penn and America's founders originally intended. This includes public prayer, worship, and all other peaceful displays of expressions of religious liberty and thanksgiving.

Thank you, again, Mr. President--Madam President now.

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

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

Senator COMITTA. Madam President, I rise today with my friend and colleague Senator Dillon to recognize April as Autism Acceptance Month in Pennsylvania. When it comes to autism, awareness is important, acceptance is vital, and more importantly, resources are urgently needed. In Pennsylvania, there are more than 60,000 people with autism and intellectual disabilities who are eligible to receive support from direct support professionals. While historically we have viewed these positions as primarily caregivers, DSPs play a vital role in ensuring people in the IDA community can reach their full potential. They are instrumental in helping individuals get and stay involved in the community, pursue employment opportunities, and live their lives with greater independence. However, due to low wages and high turnover, nearly a quarter of direct service professional positions are vacant and the waitlist for services continues to grow. To help support the IDA community, Senator Dillon and I have introduced legislation tying the rates for DSPs to the national Market Consumer Index. I also support Governor Shapiro's budget proposal to invest more than \$480 million to support rate increases to service providers. These are important steps. More than 13,000 Pennsylvanians in need of care and service are on the waiting list. This budget is an opportunity to close that gap and provide them with the services they need and deserve. As we recognize Autism Acceptance Month, I am reminded of the words of Coretta Scott

King, who said: "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members." Let us work together to empower our friends in the autism community and ensure that we all have the tools and resources to live healthy, independent, and productive lives. Thank you.

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

Senator DILLON. Madam President, today I rise in collaboration with Senator Comitta in recognizing April of 2024 as Autism Acceptance Month here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disability that demands greater recognition, understanding, and acceptance. It is unique to each individual--affecting everyone differently and to many different varying degrees--impacting their abilities to learn, to maintain relationships, and to communicate with the world around them. While there is currently no cure, individuals with autism can reach their greatest potential with accurate diagnosis, appropriate education, and intervention. It is crucial that we provide the necessary tools to ensure that all individuals living with the autism spectrum disorder are accurately and appropriately supported throughout their entire lives. Governor Shapiro's proposed budget, which looks to invest over 250 million in programs focused on individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism, is a great start.

Most of us in this Chamber know somebody with autism. Two members of my staff back in northeast Philadelphia are dedicated mothers to autistic children. I have spent a great deal of my life--throughout my basketball academy and coaching youth sports--interacting in some ways with children with autism. I want to let you know that this cause is close to my heart, and it is very personal. With approximately 1 in 36 American children living with the autism spectrum disorder and number of adults expecting to increase dramatically, it is important that we take action now to promote the acceptance and support the individuals with autism in our communities and throughout the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta, for a second time.

Senator COMMITTA. Madam President, I rise today to join my friend and colleague Senator Tartaglione in support of Senate Resolution No. 256 declaring April 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Sexual assault takes an immense toll on our communities. It harms all of us. Our children and adults, individuals and families, women and men, and our friends in the LGBTQIA+ community. And very often the experience impacts survivors for years and decades or more. The repercussions, the aftermath, and the healing and recovery process can last one's entire life. This year's theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month is "Building Connected Communities," because a strong community can help counter the culture of sexual assault. A strong community can help stop the negative attitudes, the harmful ideas, and oppressive behaviors that enable it. A strong community can help us hold each other accountable in confronting questionable behavior and sexual harassment head-on. And a strong community helps prevent sexual assault, ensure access to justice, promote healing, and support survivors in the journey of recovery. We all have a role to play in stopping sexual assault, empowering victims, and creating a safe, healthy, and welcoming environment for all. As the saying goes, it is on us.

This month and every month in this Chamber and in our communities, neighborhoods, and personal lives, let us remember and embrace our collective responsibility to stop sexual assault and to support survivors at every opportunity. Thank you.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, I rise because today marks 6,845 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. For my entire career, I have fought to ensure that Pennsylvanians can survive on the work that they do. That they are paid reasonable, respectable, and a livable wage. Madam President, the time to talk about minimum wage has passed. There is no such thing as minimum work, so there should not be a minimum wage. What it is time to fight for now is a livable wage. A wage that can support a single mother working a full-time job waiting tables. A recent high school graduate taking community college classes while they work at a bodega down the street. Or a husband and wife with three kids who both work to provide a great life for their children. No Pennsylvanian deserves to live in State-sanctioned poverty. Our workers across the Commonwealth deserve better. Our workers across the Commonwealth deserve a livable wage. That is why I introduced new legislation that would raise the minimum wage to \$20 an hour and tie further increases to inflation. Madam President, let me be clear, it is inexcusable how we have left our low-wage earners behind. In Pennsylvania, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator, a single adult household with no children needs roughly \$20 an hour just to make ends meet. If you have a child to a single-worker household, the livable wage jumps to almost \$40 an hour. Madam President, \$7.25 does not work in 2024. It has become abundantly clear that Pennsylvanians do not need a minimum wage. Madam President, they need a living wage.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Monroe, Senator Brown.

Senator BROWN. Madam President, I rise today in support of Senate Resolution No. 250, which I prime sponsored along with my co-chair from Delaware County, Senator Kearney. Senate Resolution No. 250 designates the week of April 8 through 14, 2024, as Local Government Week in Pennsylvania, and it recognizes today, April 10, as Local Government Day. Pennsylvania's 2,560 municipalities are responsible for many of the conveniences that keep our communities running. They are staffed by local elected officials, municipal workers, and volunteers who dedicate their time and talents in service to their neighbors. Earlier today, municipal governments took center stage at a ceremony honoring the 2024 Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence. This annual event recognizes the ingenuity and achievements of outstanding local governments in several categories, including innovative planning and intergovernmental cooperation. I want to give a special shout-out to one of my municipalities in the 40th Senatorial District, the city of Carbondale, which was recognized for excellence in building community partnerships. Carbondale collaborated with NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania on a project called Beautiful Blocks Carbondale, which has helped to combat blight in the city. The program has assisted residents with landscaping, sidewalk repair, and exterior improvements to 73 homes. It is remarkable what

can be accomplished when we work together to achieve community goals. On behalf of the Senate of Pennsylvania, I wish all the hardworking men and women who keep our municipalities running a very happy Local Government Week. Thank you for your contributions to our Commonwealth.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator KEARNEY. Madam President, I rise today to echo the comments of my colleague, the good Senator from Monroe County, in recognition of Local Government Day and Week in the Commonwealth. I also want to piggyback on her comments about the Governor's Awards which were given out today. Rebecca Ross from the Delaware County Planning Department won the outstanding service to local government award today, and I wanted to give her a shout-out. The Planning Department in Delaware County does wonderful work for the citizens of Delco, but local governments themselves are an incredible asset to our society, the background to American democracy. From each voting precinct's volunteer election board to county governments, to our favorite first-class city, they tackle problems large and small and implement an incredible amount of work and policy. Local governments are essential features for State policies, including education, public works, human services, transportation, emergency services, public safety, land use, and much more. But they are so much more than just that. Local governments give Pennsylvanians self-determination, the ability to chart our own course, the ability to live by their own values without larger government interference. In short, local governments make us free. Pennsylvanians engage with their local governments for many reasons, and engagement is the bedrock of self-determination. From working with neighbors to make neighborhoods safer, to running environmental sustainability initiatives; from serving on a board or a commission, to attending Independence Day parades, our local government gives all Pennsylvanians a chance to be part of something bigger than themselves and to take part in democratic governance. Local governments are the foundation for democratic resiliency, and we are blessed to have them.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and thank my staff member, Ryan Morden, for his work in my office and his years of service to the Commonwealth. When Ryan decided to go to law school, I knew that at some point he would probably leave my office, and unfortunately, that point is now. Next week is Ryan's last week in my office, and I am extremely sad to see him go, but his future clients are very lucky to have him. Ryan and I met in 2015 at a random Panera Bread when I showed up to knock on doors during a Senate special election. We became fast friends and canvassing buddies. We knocked on countless doors in the rain, the snow, and sometimes, even some sunny days for a variety of different candidates. I did not know then that a few years later I would be running for a State Senate seat, and Ryan would be right there with me from the very beginning, helping to get my name on the ballot. After I was elected, I knew I wanted Ryan to be part of my official team. I had to make a somewhat awkward phone call to his then-boss, State Rep. Dan Frankel, to say: I am sorry, but I am not really sorry, that I am

going to offer Ryan a job. Thankfully, Rep. Frankel was not too upset with me because I do not know what these first 5 years would have looked like without Ryan. Ryan has worked tirelessly to serve the constituents of the 38th Senatorial District. He has gone far beyond answering phone calls and emails. He listened to that phone call and then drove to a constituent's house to take photos of the pothole on their street. He spent months shepherding constituents through the unemployment system, and he showed up to another constituent's front porch to notarize a document because they could not get to my office. I routinely have constituents tell me how much they have enjoyed working with Ryan, and I cannot agree more. I know that Ryan will bring the same care and passion to the clients he represents. I am proud to have Ryan as a friend, and I am confident that wherever his path takes him, we will remain friends. And, Ryan, for the record, the answer will always be "yes" if you call me and say: "Hey, Tom Morello is in town, do you want to come with me?"

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Allegheny, Senator Lindsey Williams, for a second time.

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Madam President, I rise to submit my remarks for the record on Senate Bill No. 975.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from ALLEGHENY, Senator LINDSEY WILLIAMS:)

Madam President, I rise today in opposition to Senate Bill No. 975. I certainly join the maker in wanting to keep schools, students, and educators safe--as well as be responsible with schools limited and overstretched resources. Unfortunately, this bill moves us in the wrong direction. We now have data showing that the code amended in this bill, while intended to protect schools against outside threats, is being used in schools against students.

For example, Pittsburgh Public Schools currently has a moratorium on summary citations after reckoning with the reality that students as young as kindergarten--and disproportionately Black and students with disabilities--were being pushed out of school. I am proud that Pittsburgh Public Schools made the decision to take a closer look at the unintended consequences of these vague infractions and would encourage us to do the same prior to expanding their reach.

Since we now understand that these charges are often against children, I also have concerns about raising the fines, fee, and overall legal costs for juveniles. There are national efforts to reduce or eliminate the use of court fees on young people, including guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice just last year. It is also inconsistent with the recommendations of the bipartisan Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force that we have not yet enacted. While I join the maker in the shared goal of keeping students, educators, and schools safe, I fear this bill moves us away from safety for all students and urge a "no" vote.

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

Senator COLLETT. Madam President, today I rise to celebrate the start of a new era in our ongoing challenge to clean up the toxic exposure PFAS--also known as forever chemicals--which have been linked to kidney, testicular, and other forms of cancer; high cholesterol; liver damage; pre-eclampsia; low birth weights; and other health issues. When I first ran for office, I would often hear from people in my district that one of the greatest concerns they had for the well-being of their families was how to deal with

the significant PFAS contamination throughout our region, stemming from military bases in our district. At the Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster, the Navy and Air National Guard, while neighbors gathered around to watch, would light jet fuel-soaked planes on fire during weekly fire drills and then practice smothering the flames with a white bubbly foam that was very effective at snuffing the flames due to the presence of high concentrations of PFAS chemicals. The regular use of these foams resulted in a 2014 water study by the EPA which concluded that the 12th Senatorial District and surrounding areas had the highest concentration of any region with known PFAS contamination at the time. And the pollution was spreading through the groundwater, severely impacting our drinking water systems. Cleanup became an immediate priority, the cost of which my constituents know all too well.

Since these chemicals were never listed as hazardous substances or regulated chemicals by the EPA, efforts by water utilities to filter out and clean up the water have been passed on to ratepayers for years. For years there seemed to be little action at the Federal level to regulate these chemicals, and Pennsylvania needed to take meaningful action to make our communities safe. I am proud that the Wolf and Shapiro Administrations crafted and implemented the Commonwealth's first enforceable maximum contaminant level for two of the PFAS chemicals, PFOA and PFOS, at 14 and 18 parts per trillion respectively, in 2022. To be sure, for those of us who have followed the developments and efforts to regulate PFAS closely, this was a heralded win, but we knew more could and should be done. And today there is hope, because today the EPA announced the first-ever nationally enforceable maximum contaminant level for five different PFAS chemicals, including PFOA and PFOS, two of the most widely used PFAS chemicals in everything from Teflon and Scotchgard to those firefighting foams that I mentioned.

Make no mistake, Madam President, this is huge news and is a crucial first step in restoring Americans' confidence in the safety of our drinking water. The plan announced by the Biden-Harris Administration today means that public water systems will have 3 years to complete the initial monitoring requirements, inform the public of the level of PFAS measured in their drinking water, and implement solutions to reduce PFAS in their drinking water to levels below the standards within 5 years. And this new effort by the EPA comes with billions in support from the bipartisan infrastructure law to bring these filtration standards to reality. Here in Pennsylvania, this is welcome news, but I know it is not the only thing that we can be doing to support ratepayers and constituents across the Commonwealth who have had to foot the bill for pollution known to the manufacturers of these products for nearly 75 years. Evidence from litigation elsewhere in the country make clear that the risks and dangers of these chemicals were known and were never disclosed by manufacturers under the requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976. And Pennsylvania has its own Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, which is one of the statutory tools we have to enforce our State constitutional rights to clean air and water. I am calling on the Senate and our friends in the House to consider Senate Bill No. 612, a bill I have introduced since coming into office, which would classify these PFAS chemicals under the HSCA and provide an opportunity for impacted parties to sue for financial relief from polluters to pay for the cleanup of the pollution that they have caused.

Simply put, it is unjust to continue requiring taxpayers and ratepayers to pay to clean up pollution without holding any of these polluters accountable for violating our constitutional right to pure water. Let us embrace this new period of environmental protection and rise to the challenge facing our State. We need to deliver the tools our constituents and the Commonwealth need to bring these polluters to justice by passing Senate Bill No. 612.

Thank you, Madam President.

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 1795.

RECESS

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

Senator AUMENT. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, April 29, 2024, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 1:12 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.