

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 11

**SENATE**

MONDAY, April 29, 2024

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

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend JOE SPACK, of Chestnut Grove Independent Church, Punxsutawney, offered the following prayer:

Let us bow in a word of prayer.

Father, what a blessing it is to be here on this day. And, Father, we come before You on this day seeking Your guidance, for Your word tells us in Proverbs 15:22: "Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established." There is a council gathered together today here in this Assembly. May You help on this day; may You guide on this day; may You give each one here the ability to approach each matter in a very calm spirit, and grant insight. But Lord, it should not only be on this day, but each day; 9/11 reminds us of that, as representatives gathered together, no matter whether Democratic or Republican, to seek Your face. But when things settled down, truth be told, they quickly forgot about You. Your word also tells us in 2 Chronicles 7:14 that: "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Lord, how we need healing in our land. That is a huge issue facing our country. But Father, I pray that everyone here today will humble themselves before You and they will seek Your face as they enter into this Session. And Father, we pray that You will hear from heaven and that You will heal our land. So, Father, we thank You for this opportunity to come before You today. Bless this Session and every Session that this Assembly and this Senate has. We just thank You and praise You in Jesus' wonderful and precious Name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Spack, who is the guest today of Senator Pittman.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**RECALL COMMUNICATIONS  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT 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 STATE BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS**

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 26, 2024, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, 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 Ronald Gray, Hatboro, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS**

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 26, 2024, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, 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 Gregory Black, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING**

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 17, 2024, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Ann Michele Coughlin, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated January 17, 2024, of Amanda Warren, 213 Locust Street, Unit 301, Harrisburg 17101, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Kristin Malady, Mechanicsburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 16, 2024, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months [sic], vice Bridget Vincent, Huntingdon Valley, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

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

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated March 11, 2024, of Aaron H. Danks, 1801 North Second Street #2, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as member of the State Registration Board For Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists, to serve until June 8, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jonathan Tabas, Lansdale, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated December 15, 2023, of Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 3115 Wayland Road, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Psychology, 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 Richard Small, Wyomissing, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

April 22, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 26, 2024, of 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 Veterinary Medicine, 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 Meredith Odato Graham, McMurray, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

April 25, 2024

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

In accordance with the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the Commonwealth, I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 16, 2024, of Elise Claire Schell, 1500 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg 17102, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, to serve until June 23, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Walter Eisenhower, Jersey Shore, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT 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 STATE BOARD OF AUCTIONEER EXAMINERS

April 22, 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, Sherman Hostetter, Jr., 113 Gilliland Avenue, Beaver Falls 15010, Beaver County, Forty-seventh 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

April 22, 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, Justin Bechtel, 201 Pine Street, Sunbury 17801, Northumberland County, Twenty-seventh 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 Ronald Gray, Jr., Hatboro, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

April 22, 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, Jennifer Unis Sullivan, 29 College Drive, Monaca 15061, Beaver County, Forty-seventh Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the State Board of Dentistry, 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.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

April 22, 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, Christopher Feryo, 1156 Lake Drive, West Chester 19382, Chester County, Ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Funeral Directors, to serve for a term of five years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified,

but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Carmella Imburgia, Brookhaven, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

April 22, 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, Frank Holgerson, 124 North Willow Street, Kennett Square 19348 [sic], Chester County, Ninth [sic] Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, 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 Gregory Black, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 22, 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, Kathryn Capiotis, 275 Vinmont Road, Reinholds 17569, Berks County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Ann Michele Coughlin, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 22, 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, Susan Hellier, 814 Chapin Road, New Castle 16105, Lawrence County, Fiftieth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Bridget Vincent, Huntingdon Valley, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 22, 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, David Scher, 194 West Wayne Avenue,

Wayne 19087, Delaware County, Seventeenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Kristin Malady, Mechanicsburg, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

April 22, 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, Ian Steele, 1665 Erney Road, Dover 17315, York County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Physical Therapy, to serve until October 2, 2027, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Sandra Campbell, Media, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE REGISTRATION  
BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,  
LAND SURVERYORS [SIC] AND GEOLOGISTS

April 22, 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, Scott Reeser, 237 Colorado Drive, Birdsboro 19508, Berks County, Forty-fourth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors [sic] and Geologists, to serve until June 8, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, but not longer than six months beyond that period, vice Jonathan Tabas, Lansdale, deceased.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

April 22, 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, David Zehring, 633 Williamson Road, Greencastle 17225, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Psychology, 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 Richard Small, Wyomissing, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

April 22, 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, Clement George (Public Member), 5303 Carnegie Street, Pittsburgh 15201, Allegheny County, Thirty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine, 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 Meredith Odato Graham, McMurray, whose term expired.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE

April 25, 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, Adanna Okereh, 413 White Rose Lane, York 17402, York County, Twenty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Medicine, 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 Walter Eisenhauer, Jersey Shore, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**CORRECTION TO RECALL  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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

MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF BARBER EXAMINERS

April 29, 2024

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

Please note that the letter dated April 22, 2024, for the recall of the nomination dated February 26, 2024, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, 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 Ronald Gray, Hatboro, whose term expired, should be corrected to read:

I do hereby recall my nomination dated February 26, 2024, and corrected on March 13, 2024, of Rodney R. Akers, Esquire, 4307 Dakota Street, 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 Ronald Gray, Hatboro, whose term expired.

### CORRECTIONS TO NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT 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 STATE BOARD OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

April 29, 2024

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

Please note that the letter dated April 22, 2024, for the nomination of Frank Holgerson, 124 North Willow Street, Kennett Square 19348, Chester County, Ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, 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 Gregory Black, Mechanicsburg, resigned, should be corrected to read:

Frank Holgerson, 501 Montana Drive, Lincoln University 19352, Chester County, Nineteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Landscape Architects, 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 Gregory Black, Mechanicsburg, resigned.

#### MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF NURSING

April 29, 2024

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

Please note that the letter dated April 22, 2024, for the nomination of Kathryn Capiotis, 275 Vinmont Road, Reinholds 17569, Berks County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Ann Michele Coughlin, Philadelphia, whose term expired, should be corrected to read:

Kathryn Capiotis, 275 Vinemont Road, Reinholds 17569, Berks County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the State Board of Nursing, 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 Ann Michele Coughlin, Philadelphia, whose term expired.

### HOUSE MESSAGES

#### HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILLS

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 709**, **SB 945**, **SB 979** and **SB 1111** with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

#### HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to **HB 917**.

### BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

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

April 16, 2024

Senators MASTRIANO, ARGALL, BAKER, COSTA, CULVER, GEBHARD, HUTCHINSON, KANE, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, ROTHMAN, VOGEL, COLEMAN, J. WARD and MILLER presented to the Chair **SB 1160**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veteran recognition, providing for Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, April 16, 2024.

April 17, 2024

Senators LAUGHLIN and SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SB 1146**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in firearms and other dangerous articles, further providing for licenses.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 17, 2024.

April 22, 2024

Senators LANGERHOLC, BAKER, ARGALL, MARTIN, DUSH, PHILLIPS-HILL, MASTRIANO, ROTHMAN, J. WARD and HUTCHINSON presented to the Chair **SB 913**, entitled:

An Act providing for parental consent for virtual mental health services provided by a school entity.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 22, 2024.

Senators BROOKS, DUSH, HUTCHINSON, BARTOLOTTA, STEFANO and PENNYCUICK presented to the Chair **SB 1050**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 25 (Elections) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in penalties, providing for the offense of distribution of unofficial mail-in form; and imposing a penalty.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, April 22, 2024.

Senators CULVER, VOGEL, KANE and DILLON presented to the Chair **SB 1138**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in organization of departmental administrative boards and commissions and of advisory boards and commissions, further providing for the State Geospatial Coordinating Board.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, April 22, 2024.

Senators BARTOLOTTA, PENNYCUICK, DiSANTO, KEARNEY, BREWSTER, BAKER, VOGEL, COSTA,

STEFANO, ROTHMAN, FLYNN, FARRY, ARGALL and MILLER presented to the Chair **SB 1147**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in inspection of vehicles, further providing for inspection of motorcycles.

Which was committed to the Committee on TRANSPORTATION, April 22, 2024.

Senators ROBINSON, HUTCHINSON, VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA and GEBHARD presented to the Chair **SB 1148**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, in surplus lines, providing for surplus lines fees and further providing for monthly reports.

Which was committed to the Committee on BANKING AND INSURANCE, April 22, 2024.

Senators MASTRIANO, BROOKS, VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA and BAKER presented to the Chair **SB 1149**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in personal income tax, further providing for classes of income.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, April 22, 2024.

Senators ARGALL, BAKER, VOGEL, PENNYCUICK, BREWSTER, J. WARD and FARRY presented to the Chair **SB 1157**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, providing for exception from compulsory education for certain children with disabilities.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 22, 2024.

Senators FONTANA, BREWSTER, SCHWANK and MILLER presented to the Chair **SB 1158**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 1, 1977 (P.L.237, No.76), known as the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act, further providing for exemption schedule.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, April 22, 2024.

Senators FONTANA, KEARNEY, BREWSTER, CAPPELLETTI, BAKER, COSTA and DILLON presented to the Chair **SB 1159**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in fantasy contests, further providing for prohibitions; in lottery, further providing for iLottery authorization; in interactive gaming, further providing for interactive gaming account credits, debits, deposits and payments; and, in sports wagering, further providing for authorization to conduct sports wagering.

Which was committed to the Committee on COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, April 22, 2024.

Senators BROWN, PENNYCUICK, BREWSTER, VOGEL and MILLER presented to the Chair **SB 1162**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for computer science education; and abrogating a regulation.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 22, 2024.

Senators BOSCOLA, FONTANA, LAUGHLIN and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1165**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in powers and duties, providing for criminal history background checks.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 22, 2024.

Senators HUGHES, COSTA, HAYWOOD, SAVAL, SANTARSIERO, KANE, FONTANA, BREWSTER, DILLON, SCHWANK and MILLER presented to the Chair **SB 1168**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in emergency COVID-19 response, further providing for Housing Options Grant Program; and making appropriations.

Which was committed to the Committee on URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, April 22, 2024.

Senators ARGALL, VOGEL, GEBHARD, KANE, COLLETT, COSTA, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, DILLON and MILLER presented to the Chair **SB 1171**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for administration of emergency anti-seizure medication.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 22, 2024.

Senator BARTOLOTTA presented to the Chair **SB 1172**, entitled:

An Act authorizing the Department of General Services, with the approval of the Governor, to grant and convey to Franklin Township, Greene County, certain lands situate in Franklin Township, Greene County.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, April 22, 2024.

Senators STEFANO, ROTHMAN, BOSCOLA, BAKER, FONTANA, MILLER, BREWSTER, CULVER and VOGEL presented to the Chair **SB 1173**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 19, 1980 (P.L.15, No.9), known as the Real Estate Licensing and Registration Act, in definitions, further providing for definitions; in application of the act and penalties, further providing for exclusions; and, in duties of licensees, providing for right to cancel sales agreements or sales contracts for wholesale transactions.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 22, 2024.

Senators STEFANO, LAUGHLIN, ROTHMAN and VOGEL presented to the Chair **SB 1174**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rates and distribution systems, providing for waiver of laws, regulations and policies under commission's jurisdiction.

Which was committed to the Committee on CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE, April 22, 2024.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL presented to the Chair **SB 1175**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, further providing for State convention or association, delegates, expenses and membership.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 22, 2024.

Senators DUSH, KEARNEY, PENNYCUICK and VOGEL presented to the Chair **SB 1176**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 22, 2024.

Senators DUSH and ROTHMAN presented to the Chair **SB 1177**, entitled:

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 administration of act, further providing for State Unemployment Compensation Advisory Counsel.

Which was committed to the Committee on LABOR AND INDUSTRY, April 22, 2024.

Senators COMITTA, FONTANA, CAPPELLETTI, ROBINSON, COSTA, MASTRIANO and MUTH presented to the Chair **SB 1178**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in cruelty to animals, further providing for animal mutilation and related offenses.

Which was committed to the Committee on JUDICIARY, April 22, 2024.

#### April 26, 2024

Senators MARTIN, K. WARD, PITTMAN, AUMENT, ARGALL, PENNYCUICK, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN, MASTRIANO, REGAN, STEFANO, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1150**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program; and imposing powers and duties on the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 26, 2024.

Senators MARTIN, K. WARD, PITTMAN, AUMENT, ARGALL, PENNYCUICK, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN,

MASTRIANO, REGAN, STEFANO, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1151**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in the State System of Higher Education, further providing for definitions and establishing the Grow Pennsylvania Merit Scholarship Program.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 26, 2024.

Senators ROBINSON, K. WARD, MARTIN, PITTMAN, AUMENT, ARGALL, PENNYCUICK, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN, MASTRIANO, REGAN, STEFANO, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1152**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in Ready-to-Succeed Scholarship, further providing for agency.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 26, 2024.

Senators PENNYCUICK, MARTIN, K. WARD, PITTMAN, AUMENT, ARGALL, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN, MASTRIANO, REGAN, STEFANO, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1153**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in the State System of Higher Education, providing for educational opportunities for foster and adopted children.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 26, 2024.

Senators AUMENT, MARTIN, PITTMAN, ARGALL, PENNYCUICK, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN, MASTRIANO, REGAN, STEFANO, VOGEL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1154**, entitled:

An Act establishing the Performance-based Funding Council and providing for its powers and duties.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 26, 2024.

Senator ARGALL presented to the Chair **SB 1155**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in miscellaneous provisions relating to institutions of higher education, providing for Higher Education Task Force.

Which was committed to the Committee on EDUCATION, April 26, 2024.

### **RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED**

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

#### April 12, 2024

Senators MUTH, FONTANA, CAPPELLETTI, SAVAL, STREET, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, VOGEL, COMITTA, HUTCHINSON, COSTA,

DILLON and L. WILLIAMS presented to the Chair **SR 265**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of April 7 through 13, 2024, as "National Library Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 12, 2024.

Senators HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, FONTANA, KANE, ARGALL, COSTA and SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SR 266**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing April 12, 2024, as the 160th anniversary of the Fort Pillow Massacre, in honor of the fallen soldiers who lost their lives during this battle.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 12, 2024.

Senators HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, FONTANA, KANE, ARGALL, COSTA and SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SR 267**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing April 9, 2024, as "Appomattox Day" in Pennsylvania, in honor of the historic Confederate surrender in Appomattox, Virginia, which led to full emancipation in the United States and signaled the end of the American Civil War, and urging the designation of "Appomattox Day" as a legal holiday in this Commonwealth.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 12, 2024.

Senators MASTRIANO, ARGALL, BROOKS, BROWN, COSTA, CULVER, DUSH, FARRY, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, LANGERHOLC, LAUGHLIN, MARTIN, PENNYCUICK, PHILLIPS-HILL, VOGEL, BAKER, J. WARD and ROBINSON presented to the Chair **SR 268**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of May 19 through 25, 2024, as "Emergency Medical Services Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 12, 2024.

#### April 17, 2024

Senators CAPPELLETTI, DILLON, SAVAL, TARTAGLIONE, HUGHES, FONTANA, KEARNEY, SCHWANK, MUTH, KANE, HAYWOOD, COMITTA and STREET presented to the Chair **SR 264**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the month of April 2024 as "National Fair Housing Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 17, 2024.

#### April 22, 2024

Senators VOGEL, BARTOLOTTA, STREET, KANE, MARTIN, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, COSTA, J. WARD, BAKER and MILLER presented to the Chair **SR 269**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of April 2024 as "Safe Digging Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.

Senators CAPPELLETTI, HUGHES, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, KANE, HAYWOOD, KEARNEY, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, COMITTA, STREET, BREWSTER and COSTA presented to the Chair **SR 270**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the 54th celebration of "Earth Day" on April 22, 2024, in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.

Senators PHILLIPS-HILL, DUSH, CULVER, BREWSTER, VOGEL, COSTA and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SR 271**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing April 19, 2024, as "Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.

Senators BARTOLOTTA, KEARNEY, ROTHMAN, KANE, LAUGHLIN, ARGALL, HUTCHINSON, BREWSTER, VOGEL, COSTA, J. WARD, MASTRIANO and CULVER presented to the Chair **SR 272**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the month of May 2024 as "Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.

Senators CULVER, MARTIN, HUGHES, SANTARSIERO, TARTAGLIONE, COMITTA, HAYWOOD, BREWSTER, COSTA, KANE, VOGEL, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, PHILLIPS-HILL and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SR 273**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing April 29, 2024, as "World Wish Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.

Senators PHILLIPS-HILL, HUGHES, MARTIN, COLLETT, BREWSTER, COSTA, KANE, HUTCHINSON, VOGEL, LAUGHLIN, SCHWANK, BROWN and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SR 274**, entitled:

A Resolution recognizing the week of April 15 through 21, 2024, as "National Osteopathic Medicine Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.

Senators CULVER, BROOKS, MARTIN, PHILLIPS-HILL, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, K. WARD, HUGHES, FARRY, KANE, BROWN, HUTCHINSON, BREWSTER, LAUGHLIN, HAYWOOD, CAPPELLETTI, ROBINSON, VOGEL, COSTA, J. WARD, SCHWANK, MILLER and COMITTA presented to the Chair **SR 275**, entitled:

A Resolution designating May 7, 2024, as "Cancer Action Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 22, 2024.



April 26, 2024

Senators YAW, VOGEL, MARTIN, HUGHES, SCHWANK, BROOKS, DUSH, COMITTA, COSTA, HUTCHINSON, J. WARD and MILLER presented to the Chair **SR 276**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of April 28 through May 4, 2024, as "Conservation District Week" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, April 26, 2024.

**HOUSE MESSAGES**

**HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following bills for concurrence, which were referred to the committees indicated:

April 12, 2024

**HB 777** -- Committee on Judiciary.

April 17, 2024

**HB 1664** -- Committee on Banking and Insurance.

April 18, 2024

**HB 1730** -- Committee on Local Government.

April 22, 2024

**HB 71, 651, 1220, 1472 and 1518** -- Committee on State Government.

**HB 105, 538, 816, 1798, 2055 and 2161** -- Committee on Transportation.

**HB 254** -- Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy.

**HB 491 and 1842** -- Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

**HB 657** -- Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing.

**HB 660 and 1512** -- Committee on Banking and Insurance.

**HB 1573 and 1799** -- Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development.

**HB 1593 and 1853** -- Committee on Aging and Youth.

**HB 1598** -- Committee on Communications and Technology.

**HB 1834** -- Committee on Labor and Industry.

**HB 1903** -- Committee on Local Government.

**HB 2119** -- Committee on Finance.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following resolution for concurrence, which was referred to the committee indicated:

April 12, 2024

**HR 269** -- Committee on Judiciary.

**GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA AUTO THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Auto Theft Prevention Authority  
5 Kacey Court, Suite 201  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

March 31, 2024

Donnetta M. D'Innocenzo  
Chief Clerk of the Senate  
Senate Box 203052  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3052

RE: Automobile Theft Prevention Act, Section 5 (12).

Dear Chief Clerk D'Innocenzo:

The Pennsylvania Automobile Theft Prevention Authority is required pursuant to the provisions of the Automobile Theft Prevent [sic] Act referenced above to "Report annually on or before the first day of April...to the Governor and the General Assembly on the authority's activities for the preceding period."

In prior years we have provided a printed document to satisfy this reporting requirement. However, this year and going forward, we are providing that report in electronic form. This is due both to the substantially increased cost of printing that document, and our desire to provide a "green" alternative to a paper report.

Therefore, our 2023 Annual Report can be found on our website at: [https://watchyourcar.org/annual\\_reports/2023-annual-report-of-the-authority/](https://watchyourcar.org/annual_reports/2023-annual-report-of-the-authority/)

We are providing this information in compliance with the reporting requirement and have provided the same to the Governor and House of Representatives. Please circulate this report to the members of the Senate.

In addition, this electronic posting complies with the statutory requirement that our Annual Report be publicly available.

Thank you for your courtesy and please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

STEVEN R. WHEELER  
Executive Director

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

**2024 RATE COMPARISON REPORT  
PURSUANT TO ACT 201 OF 2024  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Josh Shapiro  
Governor of Pennsylvania

The Honorable Austin Davis  
Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania

Members of the General Assembly,

I am pleased to submit for your review the Commission's Rate Comparison Report for 2024.

Act 201, signed into law on Nov. 30, 2004, added Section 308.1(b) to the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §308. Section 308.1(b) requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to file an annual Rate Comparison Report (Report) with the Governor and the General Assembly on April 15 every year. The Report compares all categories of ratepayers for all electric and gas public utilities so that a reasonably accurate comparison of rates can be made between similar ratepayers receiving services in different service areas of the Commonwealth.

The first section of the Report provides information on the average residential usage and bill amounts for select utilities. The second and third sections provide more detailed information on electric and natural gas service, respectively, with comparison tables and graphs of all regulated Electric Distribution Companies (EDCs) and Natural Gas Distribution Companies (NGDCs), followed by individual company information.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. DeFRANK  
Chairman, Pennsylvania  
Public Utility Commission

The PRESIDENT. This report will be filed in the Library.

**APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the Minority Leader has made the following appointment:

Mr. Rodney Sarver as a member of the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator DiSanto, Senator Regan, and Senator Brooks, and a legislative leave for Senator Coleman.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Saval.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator DiSanto, Senator Regan, and Senator Brooks, and a legislative leave for Senator Coleman.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Saval.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Senator COSTA asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator ANTHONY WILLIAMS, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

**WEEKLY RECESS**

Senator PITTMAN offered the following resolution, which was read as follows:

In the Senate, April 29, 2024

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, May 6, 2024, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, May 6, 2024, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

On the question,  
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

**YEA-49**

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

**NAY-0**

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

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

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

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor and privilege to have our guest pastor here with us today who is a constituent, Pastor Jack Spark [sic], and I welcome him and his family to the Senate today as the guest Chaplain. The pastor is the senior pastor at Chestnut Grove Independent Church in Jefferson County. Pastor Spack served as the assistant pastor at Chestnut Grove from 2004 to 2009 and became senior pastor at the church in January of 2010. Joe is here with his wife, Paula. They are both lifelong residents of Punxsutawney and have two children. He is also joined here today by some of his family, including his wife, Paula; son and daughter-in-law, Luke and Nicole Spack; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Colleen and Scott Bochelman. Mr.

President, I ask that my colleagues do please give pastor Spack and his family our usual warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR PATRICK J. STEFANO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I stand with great pride today as we recognize a remarkable group of young sportsmen and women from Bedford County. I am pleased to introduce the Everett Area High School Rifle Team, who have won both the PA Interscholastic Air Rifle Championship and the PA Interscholastic 3P Smallbore Championship. This marks the sixth straight PA Interscholastic Air Rifle Championship win and the third straight PA Interscholastic 3P Smallbore Championship win for the Warrior team coached by Coltin Rice. I applaud these student-athletes for their unwavering dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence in a sport that demands precision, focus, and discipline. These achievements are a testament to their individual talents and the invaluable support of their families, the Everett community, and the skilled guidance of their coaches. It is with great joy that I welcome the Everett Area High School Rifle Team here today, and I kindly ask the Senate to join me in congratulating them on a fantastic season in their continuous statewide championship titles.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR CAMERA C. BARTOLOTTA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, today we have a very special guest joining us from the 46th Senatorial District, Ryan Pajak, a senior at Ringgold High School, and his parents, Dan and Hollie, who are all seated in the Senate gallery. Ryan had a very impressive senior year at Ringgold High School and is actively involved in the Rams' cross country and track teams under the leadership of Coach Jennifer McMichael, who, unfortunately, could not be with us today. Throughout Ryan's high school career, he has engrained himself as a team leader and mentor. His accomplishments include becoming a three-time WPIAL champion; setting a District 7 WPIAL course record holder in the 2-mile category--listen to this--clocking in at a time of an 8-minute, 38.02 seconds for 2 miles, which he did after running a 4-minute, 9 second mile--yeah--and most recently becoming the second WPIAL boys' cross country runner to win three consecutive boys' championship titles; winning the PIAA Class AA State championship and setting a new course record for 15 minutes, 21 seconds; and ranking No. 1 regionally and No. 2 at the national level. It is also worth noting that he placed runner-up in the 2023 cross country national Foot Locker competition. His achievements are not

limited to the track field. He also excels academically with a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. Ryan recently committed to Notre Dame, a Division I college, and credits his successes to the unwavering support from his mom and dad.

Outside of school, Ryan enjoys playing basketball, pickleball, and cooking. Ryan received personal invitations to the Brooks PR Invitational; New Balance Nationals Outdoor; and HOKA, or Arcadia, Invitational cross country events. Ryan's athletic accomplishments speak for themselves, but what really is impressive is a quote that he gave to a local paper about his State title. Ryan told the reporter: yes, it is satisfying, and it is a great accomplishment to win a State championship, "but I am not satisfied yet." Ryan, we know that you will be just now starting a future full of all sorts of achievements. Your motivation to succeed will take you very, very far and is a great example to everyone. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in offering a very warm Senate welcome to Ryan and his mom and dad.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Bartolotta 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, today I am joined by over a dozen members of the Kutztown University student government for their annual advocacy day visit to the Capitol. After meeting with these students, I must say that I am thoroughly impressed. Each and every one of them has displayed such immense passion and knowledge and professionalism. As you know, Kutztown University is a part of our [Pennsylvania] State System of [Higher] Education, or PASSHE. These students impressed me with their perspectives on issues such as tuition costs and housing and food and classes and, you know, the offerings that are made to them. And it reminded me how important it is that as we look at reorganization and funding proposals in this year's budget, that we do so thoughtfully because it will certainly have an impact on these students and so many more in our system. And as I am sure many of you can attest to, hearing the way our young leaders approach issues and difficult conversations is inspiring. I think we all have something to learn from these bright young adults, and I am excited to see where their futures take them. So, if those students, those KU students, would please rise, I will ask my colleagues to join me in giving them our traditional warm Senate welcome. Thank you, guys.

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

[Applause.]

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

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

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

Senator COMMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome Ben Shapiro, a leading student-journalist at Conestoga High School in my Senate district. Ben is being honored as the 2024 Dr. Jane Blystone Student Journalist of the Year by the Pennsylvania School Press Association. Ben is a 4-year staff member of his school's newspaper, *The Spoke*, and this year he served as editor-in-chief. He previously served as news editor and copy editor. During his time as a student-journalist, Ben has been recognized for his reporting and writing by the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association Foundation, Quill and Scroll, and the Pennsylvania Federation of Press Women. He was also the runner-up for the national Student Journalist of the Year.

Today Ben testified at the Pennsylvania House Committee on Education hearing in support of the legislation to protect and empower student-journalists. The Pennsylvania student journalism protection bill, which I have introduced in the Senate as Senate Bill No. 622, calls for school districts to place administrative review of student publications and communications in the hands of student-editors to help ensure journalistic integrity. Senate Bill No. 622 will help to foster freedom of the press in our schools and support student-journalists who provide an essential service to their schools and communities. It would also provide protection for journalism teachers and advisors. In the fall, Ben will attend the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Ben, as you wrap up your high school career, I want to thank you for your work and advocacy for student-journalists and community journalism. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Ben Shapiro, the 2024 Pennsylvania Student Journalist of the Year.

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

[Applause.]

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

### 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, Sarah Shaub. Sarah is a student at the Pennsylvania State University in Harrisburg campus and is slated to earn her bachelor of science in cybersecurity analytics and operations in 2025. Despite not yet graduating, she has an impressive work experience related to her field of study. Sarah serves as a network engineer for the Department of Defense at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, where she designed, developed, and delivered network analysis and network reconstruction tools to support offensive and defensive information systems. She also was a GEOINT intern for the Joint Interoperability Test Command at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where she created source code for new fields within metadata analysis software and tested and certified DOD interoperability. While serving as a cybersecurity intern for the Pennsylvania State Treasury, she explored incident response processes, file share permissions, role-based access, and verification responses. Previously, Sarah worked for State Farm at a local agency in Lancaster; and Tennis Central, where she led after-

school programs. Sarah introduced the Women in Cybersecurity student chapter to Penn State Harrisburg and currently serves as its president. She is also captain of the Penn State Harrisburg Varsity Women's Tennis Team. Unsurprisingly, given her detailed experience and dedication to leadership, Sarah was recognized with many awards and honors, predominantly for her STEM involvement. Please join me in welcoming my guest, Sarah Shaub, to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

### GUESTS OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER M. GEBHARD ON BEHALF OF SENATOR JOHN M. DiSANTO PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator GEBHARD. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator DiSanto, who had a prior commitment today, it is my pleasure as the neighboring Senator to the east to introduce the Hershey High School Ice Hockey Club. Hershey brought home the A Class State Championship, or Pennsylvania Cup, with a 4-2 victory over Chartiers Valley on March 23, becoming the first team from Central Pennsylvania to hold this title. During their championship run in this, their 30th club anniversary year, the Trojans went 14-3-1 in the regular season and won both the Bears Cup and the Flyers Cup along the way. Led by Head Coach Jarrod Hill; team captain Kyle Kloss, and assistant captains Ryan Dhawan, Tyler Lucas, and Tyler Treadway, the entire Hershey team displayed exceptional athletic skill, determination, and sportsmanship during this championship season. The Trojans and many of their parents join us in the gallery today. I wish the seniors well in their future endeavors and hope for another successful year for the returning players. Please help me welcome the Class A State champion Hershey High School Ice Hockey Team to the Senate.

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

[Applause.]

### CALENDAR

#### SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### SB 1109 CALLED UP OUT OF ORDER

**SB 1109 (Pr. No. 1461)** -- Without objection, the bill was called up out of order, from page 5 of the Second Consideration Calendar, by Senator PITTMAN, as a Special Order of Business.

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 1109 (Pr. No. 1461)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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.

### RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, to be followed by a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, both of which will be held in the Rules room immediately, followed by a Republican caucus to be held in the Majority Caucus Room.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, at the conclusion of the two meetings referenced by the Majority Leader, Senate Democrats will meet in the rear of the Chamber for a caucus as well.

The PRESIDENT. For purposes of a meeting of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations, to be followed by a meeting of the Committee on Appropriations, both of which will be held in the Rules room, followed by Republican and Democratic caucuses to be held in their respective caucus rooms, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

### AFTER RECESS

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

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

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVES CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator DiSanto and Senator Regan have returned, and their temporary Capitol leaves are cancelled.

### 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 Martin and Senator Rothman.

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

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Martin and Senator Rothman.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Collett.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

## CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED

### THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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

#### BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 832 (Pr. No. 1277)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in boards and offices, establishing the Independent Energy Office.

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

#### SB 832 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that Senate Bill No. 832, Printer's No. 1277, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 920** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

#### BILL AMENDED

**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.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

#### FARRY AMENDMENT A4106 AGREED TO

Senator FARRY offered the following amendment No. A4106:

Amend Bill, page 4, line 1, by striking out "intentional"

Amend Bill, page 4, line 3, by inserting after "controlled":

or uncontrolled

Amend Bill, page 5, line 7, by striking out "MUNICIPALITY" and inserting:

county

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

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

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 1058 (Pr. No. 1355)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the abrogation of regulations relating to the CO2 Budget Trading Program.

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

**SB 1058 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that Senate Bill No. 1058, Printer's No. 1355, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1087** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

**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 third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-49

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

NAY-0

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

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

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.

**SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 99** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 219 (Pr. No. 188)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 13, 1988 (P.L.1190, No.146), known as the First and Second Class County Property Tax Relief Act, further providing for short title, for definitions, for deferral or exemption authority and for retroactive application.

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

**SB 219 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that Senate Bill No. 219, Printer's No. 188, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 250, SB 454, SB 501** and **SB 577** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 761 (Pr. No. 864)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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.

#### BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 775** and **SB 1014** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

#### BILL LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 1017 (Pr. No. 1268)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in responsible utility customer protection, further providing for declaration of policy, for definitions, for cash deposits and household information requirements, for payment arrangements, for termination of utility service, for reconnection of service, for public utility duties, for reporting of recipients of public assistance, for liens by city natural gas distribution operations, for reporting to General Assembly and Governor and for nonapplicability and repealing provisions relating to expiration.

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

#### SB 1017 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE

Senator PITTMAN. Madam President, I move that Senate Bill No. 1017, Printer's No. 1268, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1021** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**HB 1207 (Pr. No. 1277)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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.

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1567** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

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

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

#### BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

#### SB 479 (Pr. No. 510) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for State employees and officers, further providing for definitions.

#### SB 645 (Pr. No. 686) (Rereported)

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, providing for ten-year limitation for acquiring title to vacant land for gardens in cities of the first class.

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

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 973 (Pr. No. 1515) (Rereported)

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

#### SB 1056 (Pr. No. 1364) (Rereported)

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in Treasury Department, further providing for investment of moneys.

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

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.

#### SB 1109 (Pr. 1461) (Rereported)

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.

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

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) (Rereported)

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) (Rereported)**

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

**SB 1139 (Pr. No. 1473) (Rereported)**

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

**HB 358 (Pr. No. 1798) (Rereported)**

An Act Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for awards to first responders.

**HB 1419 (Pr. No. 1598) (Rereported)**

An Act amending Title 15 (Corporations and Unincorporated Associations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in foreign associations, further providing for termination of registration.

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

**BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 1056 (Pr. No. 1364)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in Treasury Department, further providing for investment of moneys.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

**YEA-49**

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

**NAY-0**

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

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

**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 third time and agreed to,

On the question,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

**YEA-49**

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

**NAY-0**

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY**

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

**SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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<br>East Wing<br>(LIVE<br>STREAMED)         |
| 10:00 A.M. | JUDICIARY (to consider the nominations of Elizabeth Bolton Penna, Esquire, Martin Pane, and Renee Cardwell Hughes, Esquire, for Pennsylvania Parole Board) | Hearing Room 1<br>North Office<br>(LIVE<br>STREAMED) |
| 10:30 A.M. | EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 1102, 1104, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155 and 1157)   | Room 8E-A<br>East Wing<br>(LIVE<br>STREAMED)         |
| 11:30 A.M. | CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 1165, 1173 and 1174)  | Room 8E-B<br>East Wing<br>(LIVE<br>STREAMED)         |



12:00 P.M. STATE GOVERNMENT (to consider Senate Bills No. 525, 800 and 1108; and Senate Resolution No. 77) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

10:30 A.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bills No. 77, 269 and 1149) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

## PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lycoming, Senator Yaw.

Senator YAW. Mr. President, it is my pleasure this afternoon to join Senator Vogel in offering Senate Resolution No. 276, which recognizes the week of April 28 through May 4, 2024, as Conservation District Week in Pennsylvania. Our county conservation districts exist in every county of Pennsylvania except Philadelphia and are the boots on the ground when it comes to developing local plans that protect our natural resources. Conservation district history is rooted in solving the soil erosion crisis of the Dust Bowl days. Pennsylvania first authorized the establishment of conservation districts in 1945 under Act 217. Today, conservation districts continue the cooperative approach in dealing with natural resource problems. Districts are experts at channeling resources from government agencies, conservation groups, and civic organizations and putting those resources into action at the local level. Programs vary widely throughout conservation districts in Pennsylvania since each district develops its own programs to best suit the environmental needs of the county. Common concerns and activities that our districts are involved in are erosion and sedimentation control, wetland protection, forest reserve management, rural and residential development, mine land reclamation, and other environmental concerns. Each conservation district is governed by a board of volunteer directors who, by State law, consist of both farmer and non-farmer or public members. The guiding philosophy of all conservation districts is that decisions about conservation issues should be made at the local level by citizens who understand the local environment. Mr. President, I would like to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the hardworking staff and many accomplishments of our county conservation districts and therefore designate the week of April 28 through May 4, 2024, as Conservation District Week in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER (Senator Elisabeth J. Baker) in the Chair.**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver, Senator Vogel.

Senator VOGEL. Madam President, today I rise to recognize this week as Conservation District Week here in Pennsylvania. Senator Yaw and I are pleased to, again, sponsor this year's Senate Resolution No. 276, which offers this designation in recognition of the immeasurable contributions these districts make to our Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts currently oversees the 66 conservation districts, and through their effective and hardworking staff, they continue to ensure the safety and protection of our invaluable natural

resources on our public and private lands. Some of the responsibilities the association is tasked with include resource protection; providing vital environmental education; preserving our prosperous farming industry by approving land for the State's agricultural land preservation program; and implementing programs such as forest management, stormwater management, and abandoned mines. I commend the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts for prioritizing the protection and conservation of our beloved resources and for their willingness to maintain strong relationships with our local, State, and Federal government, and most importantly, our Pennsylvania communities.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, I rise today because today marks 6,504 days since this Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our poverty-level minimum wage. This 17 3/4-year continued failure is keeping Pennsylvania's lowest earners in poverty without no end in sight. Madam President, there must be an end in sight in the upcoming flurry of legislative activity to prepare our Commonwealth for the next fiscal year. Our priority should be supporting our neighbors who are making State-sanctioned poverty wages. And I know the pushback we will hear: there is not a need to raise the minimum wage; or, we cannot raise it, that would drive businesses out of Pennsylvania. Mr. President [Chair change], every single State around us has a higher minimum wage than us: Ohio, \$10.45; Maryland, \$15 an hour; New Jersey, \$15.13 an hour; New York, \$16 an hour; Delaware, \$13.25 an hour; even West Virginia has a minimum wage that is higher than ours at \$8.75. I cannot speak for my colleagues, but I do not remember hearing about an exodus of jobs and employers fleeing from those States when they raised their minimum wage. Mr. President, as we approach this budget season, we know what we have to do. Our Commonwealth's workers deserve more than our poverty-level minimum wage. So, whether you agree that our minimum wage is unconscionable or not, the PA Senate Democrats and I will be in this Chamber every Session day fighting to ensure every worker earns a dignified wage.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Northumberland, Senator Culver.

Senator CULVER. Mr. President, I rise today on Senate Resolution No. 273, recognizing April 29, 2024, as World Wish Day in Pennsylvania. Most of us use the word "wish" in our daily lives. We wish the traffic would move faster; we wish someone a happy birthday; and we wish we could find that matching sock that seems so elusive. Most of us wish for things without ever giving them a second thought, but today I want us to give wishes a second thought. For most of us, a wish does not mean very much. I want to tell you about a group of people who absolutely cherish their wishes. Most of us by now have heard of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The mission of the Make-A-Wish Foundation is: "Together, we create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses." A wish can be anything from a meeting

with a celebrity to spending a day at a theme park. If a child can dream it, Make-A-Wish Foundation will make it happen. For a child with a critical illness, a wish is more than one good day. A wish grants hope; a wish grants freedom; a wish delivers a sense of control. The Make-A-Wish Foundation has been granting life-changing wishes for children and families for more than 40 years. The organization grants a wish every 34 minutes to a child in the United States. Here in Pennsylvania, Make-A-Wish chapters granted 761 wishes in 2023.

World Wish Day celebrates the anniversary of the fulfillment of a wish in April 1980 that inspired the creation of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. I therefore am proud to sponsor Senate Resolution No. 273, recognizing April 29, 2024, as World Wish Day in Pennsylvania. I want to thank my colleagues for their support for this resolution. I am grateful for the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the wishes it has granted to children in the Senate districts across Pennsylvania. And in the spirit of the resolution, I would like to share with you today one of my wishes. I wish there would be a day where no more children are afflicted with critical illnesses. Until that day comes, we can rest assured knowing the Make-A-Wish Foundation is working to improve the lives of critically ill children.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise to offer remarks on behalf of Senator Katie Muth regarding legislation introduced by our colleagues, Senator Muth and Senator Lindsey Williams, that recognizes April 2024 as Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. I ask that Senator Muth's remarks be entered into the record.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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 gentleman from Allegheny, Senator COSTA, on behalf of the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator MUTH:)*

Mr. President, I rise today to ask for support for Senate Resolution No. 277, which I introduced along with my friend and colleague Senator Lindsey Williams to recognize April 2024 as Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Month in Pennsylvania. Mr. President, military sexual trauma, or MST, is such a serious issue and troubling issue in our military. According to VA statistics, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men report that they experienced sexual harassment or sexual assault during military service when asked by their VA healthcare provider. Anyone in the military can experience MST, regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical abilities, or branch of service. MST can occur at any time or place during military service while on or off duty and on or off base. The psychological impact of the assault and resulting trauma can push survivors out of the service and lead to tremendous difficulty readjusting to their civilian lives. Although MST can be a life-changing experience, survivors are remarkably resilient. Some recover on their own. For many, however, the experience of MST continues to affect their mental and physical health, work, relationships, or everyday life, sometimes years after the experience.

Since 2019, we have introduced several Senate resolutions marking weeks and months to support survivors of MST, but still, those are never brought up for a vote. This Session, we have also introduced Senate Bill No. 924, which would establish an annual day of recognition and awareness to honor the strength, resolve, and perseverance of military sexual trauma survivors. We need to work urgently to end sexual violence in the

military and throughout this Commonwealth, and it can start with something as simple as passing Senate Bill No. 924. Senate Bill No. 924 remains in the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness. We will not bring up a bill to support survivors of MST here in this Senate, but tomorrow morning at the Senate Committee on State Government meeting, we are voting on a bill to designate an annual day of recognition for K9 veterans. It is a sad state of affairs when the Majority Party can move legislation to honor K9 veterans but refuses to consider any resolution or bill supporting survivors of MST.

The military has acknowledged that they need to do better, and both the Federal Department of Defense and the VA are making efforts to stop sexual assaults, punish perpetrators, and care for survivors. Every level of government and every branch of the military has started to take this issue seriously. Why cannot the Pennsylvania Senate? This is not a partisan issue, and I am grateful for the Republican cosponsors of both this resolution and Senate Bill No. 924. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April 2024 as Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Month and for their support of Senate Bill No. 924.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, today, as we close out Fair Housing Month here in Pennsylvania, which we observed during this month of April, it is important that we recognize how important housing measures are to our Commonwealth and to the people who reside here. As we all know, budget season is fast approaching, and we begin debating where and how we are going to spend our taxpayer resources in excess of some \$14 billion that we have available and continuing to grow. Mr. President, I would say to you and my colleagues on the Senate floor that there is no more pressing issue across Pennsylvania than housing. Urban or rural, young or old, working people in Pennsylvania are struggling, struggling to find safe homes that they can afford and live in. Up for Growth estimates that Pennsylvania has a shortage of nearly 100,000 housing units. In addition, there are 38 affordable and available homes for every 100 low-income renters in Pennsylvania, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition. And almost 60 percent of the homes in the Commonwealth were built before 1970, according to a recent State report that found that the number of uninhabitable vacant units continues to rise.

Mr. President, as we begin to negotiate our budget process and what goes into this year's budget and how we prioritize those matters, I want to emphasize the programs that the Senate Democrats will continue to fight for. Certainly, our list starts with Senator Saval's Whole-Home Repairs Program. One in 4 Pennsylvania voters live in a home that needs a critical repair, and 1 in 3 cannot actually afford their utility bills. This groundbreaking program seeks to deliver. A February 2024 survey of 59 of our 67 counties that received program funding through this program showed that more than 22,000 applications have been received while only 2,468 units, homes, expected to be funded--certainly shows a demand for the resources. And due to the overwhelming response for limited program funding, nearly 17,000 applicants for this program are currently on a waitlist--17,000 individual homeowners. Senator Hughes, Mr. President, last year led the effort with regard to the Housing Options Program, which generated approximately \$98 million to fund emergency repairs, preservation, and new construction for affordable rental units. We need to continue this program, and it has recently been introduced by himself and myself to advance that program, again, with State resources. The PHARE program, known as the Pennsylvania Housing

Affordability Fund, which is intended to assist with the creation, rehabilitation, and support of affordable housing throughout the Commonwealth, is an extremely important program. Certainly, we need to continue the legislation introduced by our colleague Senator Haywood along with, I believe, Senator Argall, but also the recommendations that Governor Shapiro has put forth as well. This is an important program for us to be able to continue, but more importantly, raise the income amounts that relate to it in terms of the amount of money we receive over the course of the upcoming years to get to a goal of \$100 million annually.

Mr. President, the eviction ceiling, which I have worked with along with my colleagues Senator Saval and Senator Schwank to remove barriers to housing for those who have wrongly had eviction proceedings filed against them that never materialized in evictions. This is an important step to remove those barriers for those individuals to allow them the opportunity to receive housing through this process. The Mixed-Use Development Tax Credit Program which, along with my colleague Senator Brooks, we are seeking to help increase from \$4.5 million to \$15 million. This is a program that allows for both retail and residential conversions or rehabilitation to projects, largely along the lines of those places that are entryways into many of our communities. This is an important program that I believe, if you look at PHFA and talk to others, brings back the highest rate of return with regard to our tax credits among many of the tax credit programs.

Mr. President, these are just a few of the ways we Senate Democrats believe we can really make a difference in the lives of our Pennsylvanians in the housing space. And we look forward to working with all of our colleagues in good faith, as we know these measures, these important issues, are all across Pennsylvania, regardless of where our colleagues come from. And that is why it is important that we need to make certain that these conversations and these measures are part of the upcoming budget.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

### PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES (Continued)

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on Senate Resolution No. 270, a resolution that I have cosponsored with Senator Hughes to recognize April 22 as Earth Day in Pennsylvania. Last week, thousands of Pennsylvanians participated in Earth Day events, volunteer opportunities, community cleanups, and so much more. This year's Earth Day theme was "Planet vs. Plastics" to prompt various stakeholders to unite to end plastics for human and planetary health, aiming at a 60 percent reduction in plastic production by 2040 and ultimately achieving a plastic-free future. And while this is a bold goal, I think Pennsylvanians and people all across the country are committed to making the necessary lifestyle changes to meet not only this mission but this moment. In fact, we have made a lot of progress on addressing climate change over the last few years, and that is something we should absolutely be proud of. At the Federal level, the bipartisan infrastructure law included a historic

investment in the resiliency of our infrastructure to climate change. It is also the largest investment in clean energy infrastructure in American history. Just last week, President Biden announced \$156 million is heading to Pennsylvania for a Solar for All initiative. In the next 20 years, this initiative is estimated to benefit over 14,000 Pennsylvania households and save more than \$192 million on Pennsylvanians' electric bills. I am absolutely thrilled about this progress. But here in Harrisburg, we all know there is more that we can do to support these efforts, like passing laws such as Senate Bill No. 422, or more commonly referred to as Go100PA, a bill that I have introduced with my colleague Senator Katie Muth to put Pennsylvania on track to 100 percent renewable energies. We can also consider and advance other measures that my colleagues have introduced to deliver results on providing clean air and clean water to every Pennsylvanian. I am hopeful that we can all use this as a reflection point and consider the ways that we as a people and as lawmakers can make a difference in protecting the environment for today, tomorrow, and future generations.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize International Workers' Memorial Day. Every year on April 28, we recognize an international day of remembrance and action for workers who are killed, disabled, injured, or made unwell by their work. International Workers' Memorial Day is celebrated on April 28 because it marks the anniversary of Congress passing the Occupational Safety and Health Act, or OSHA. OSHA promises every worker whom it covers the right to a safe workplace. Since its passage in 1971, OSHA has prevented millions of workplace injuries and illnesses, but we still have a lot of work to do to ensure that every worker is guaranteed a safe workplace. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, we still have no idea how many frontline workers were killed or made sick at work. Those workers, from healthcare workers to grocery stores, put their lives on the line and their families' lives to keep us healthy, fed, and the economy running. These workers deserve better protections then, and they deserve more now.

We also need to address the fact that OSHA does not cover all employees. Public sector workers such as State and local government employees are not covered by OSHA. That means PennDOT workers, our local road crews, the very people who work in this building who we are responsible for, are not guaranteed a safe workplace. I have said it before and I will say it again: it should not matter who signs your paycheck, every single worker is entitled to the safest workplace possible. The public sector OSHA bill has been pending for years in Pennsylvania, and we must finally pass this critical safety legislation. Today in Pittsburgh, the Allegheny/Fayette Central Labor Council is hosting their annual Workers Memorial Day service. While I cannot be there in person, I would like to take a moment to speak the names of those Allegheny County workers who lost their lives in the past year: Jonathan Smith; Joe Gazzo; Collin Rozzi, a UMWA member; Joseph Reyes; Rudy Davila; Lewis Alling; Joseph Hloznik; Charles Sanford; and Ernest Stewart. We owe it to each and every one of these workers to take bold, big steps to protect every single

one of them in the workplace. So today we remember the dead, but tomorrow and forever, we must fight like hell for the living.

Thank you, Mr. President.

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

### **BILLS SIGNED**

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

**SB 709, SB 945, SB 979, SB 1111 and HB 917.**

### **RECESS**

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

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Tuesday, April 30, 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 3:40 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.