

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 16

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2024

The Senate met at 10 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend BENJAMIN BLOWERS, of Indiana Wesleyan Methodist Church, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Thank you, it is an honor to be with you today.

Let us pray.

Dear Lord, we thank You for this day, another day You have blessed us with this amazing gift of life. Thank You for Your many blessings that You daily bless us with. We pray today for our nation, for our State, specifically, for our State Senate. I pray today that You would grant wisdom and help and direction to each Senator and their staffs. May the words of the psalmist be our collective prayer. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer. We pray, Lord, that You would keep Your hand of protection upon our nation, our State, our leaders. Bless our military, our law enforcement, our first responders, who daily put their lives on the line to protect ours. And Lord, we acknowledge Your power and might and how great You are, and we humble ourselves before You today, recognizing that we are weak, but You are strong. Help us to remember that both our help and hope is found in You. Thank You, again, Lord for this day and another opportunity to serve You. Bless each Member of this government body, our nation, bless the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Lord, You have blessed us greatly, and today we bless Your holy Name. We pray this in thy Name. Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks Reverend Blowers, who is the guest today of Senator Pittman.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

**SB 841 (Pr. No. 1591) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of August 15, 1961 (P.L.987, No.442), known as the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, further providing for definitions, for specifications, for prevailing wage and for duty of secretary.

**SB 1026 (Pr. No. 1592) (Amended)**

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1975 (P.L.604, No.173), entitled "An act to facilitate the use of electronic funds transfer systems by providing that credits to accounts in financial institutions designated by recipients shall satisfy legal requirements for payments by cash or checks," further providing for electronic funds transfers, for consumer protections and for payroll card accounts.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Coleman, Senator Regan, and Senator Bartolotta, and legislative leaves for Senator Brown, Senator Brooks, and Senator Gebhard.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request legislative leaves for Senator Boscola, Senator Cappelletti, Senator Collett, Senator Haywood, and Senator Miller.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Coleman, Senator Regan, and Senator Bartolotta, and legislative leaves for Senator Brown, Senator Brooks, and Senator Gebhard.

Senator Costa requests legislative leaves for Senator Boscola, Senator Cappelletti, Senator Collett, Senator Haywood, and Senator Miller.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

Senator PITTMAN asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator MARTIN, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

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

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Journal of the Session of March 20, 2024, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of March 20, 2024.

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

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR 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 Chaplain here with us today, the Reverend Benjamin Blowers. Reverend Blowers is the pastor of the Indiana Wesleyan Methodist Church in Indiana. He is joined today by his wife, Sonya, who I am proud to say we grew up together in the same town of beautiful Hillsdale, Pennsylvania, just down the street from each other; as well as his three daughters, Shayla, Jenna, and Megan. I would ask that the Senate give them a very warm welcome.

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

[Applause.]

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I am also very pleased to have with us today some very special guests from the Indiana Area School District. This year, Indiana won the PIAA Class AA title at the swimming and diving championships at the PIAA championships, March 15 and 16 at Bucknell University. They won their school's first PIAA team championship in any sport. These incredible young athletes include Eli Aiken, Alex Bauer, Matthew Blystone, Kody Griffith, Joey Margita, Rey Nunez, Joshua Reed, Austin Schawl, and Preston Kessler. And I am especially pleased to have Preston Kessler on the floor with us today, as he has won his fifth individual State title. He won the 200-yard freestyle for the third straight season, posting a time of 1 minute, 38.57 seconds. And, Mr. President, I am so pleased to

have all of these young men with us today on the floor and in the gallery, and I ask that we extend to them a warm welcome and a congratulations.

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

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman, for a third time.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I want to also acknowledge that a friend of many of ours is here today in the gallery. Former State Representative and Majority Leader, Dave Reed, and his wife, Heather, have joined the Indiana swimming team. It is great to have Dave back with all of us and his wife, Heather. Whenever I was talking to Dave last week, he remarked about what it was feeling like to have to drive back to Harrisburg, and we can certainly all appreciate what that feeling is like. Although, I think his drive down today was slightly less stressful than the ones in years past. But Dave, Heather, welcome to the Senate.

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

[Applause.]

**GUESTS OF SENATOR KATIE J. MUTH PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator MUTH. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a very special group from the 44th Senatorial District, over 40 students who are participating in our team's inaugural Youth Advisory Council. Mr. President, the Youth Advisory Council includes 62 sophomores and juniors from high schools across Chester, Montgomery, and Berks Counties who live within the 44th Senatorial District. Through the program, the students work together to learn about State and local government, they provide their insight, perspectives, and recommendations to my team, and we really enjoy engaging with this group of brilliant minds. I am thrilled to collaborate with these not just brilliant students, but thoughtful, empathetic, and compassionate group of humans who have changed the way that we look at policy. Engaging with young leaders not only brings their perspective to the table, but it cultivates a sense of civic responsibility and engagement among future generations. The more we can engage with this young demographic, the more we are empowering the next generation of leaders and change-makers. My guests in the gallery today include students from Coatesville Area School District, Downingtown Area School District, Great Valley, Octorara, Owen J. Roberts, Phoenixville, Spring-Ford Area School District, Methacton School District, and Daniel Boone Area School District in Berks County.

Mr. President, in addition to the students here today from my Youth Advisory Council, I also want to give a special shout-out to my intern, Anthony Fiore, who has been helping leading the charge in organizing this Youth Advisory Council effort. He has been implementing the meetings and helping us strategize on how to get engagement increase and what we should be talking about and teaching our young generation of future leaders about and how their role in local government, State government, and all things within their community is vital to its success. I also want to thank my staff for getting on a bus early this morning and

making sure everyone made it here safely and ask my colleagues to give my guests a warm Senate welcome. Thank you.

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

[Applause.]

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

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

Senator FARRY. Mr. President, today I am proud to welcome three young ladies from my district who are not only just among the premier female wrestlers in our area, but also in this Commonwealth. Payton Hinkle is a sophomore at Bensalem High School, where she is an excellent student boasting a 3.85 GPA. She is not only a great wrestler, but she is also great at gymnastics, where she actually won the all-around gymnastics State championship in 2023. In wrestling, she began her career in eighth grade. She has numerous notable achievements, including placing fifth in this year's State championships in her weight class, second in the Suburban One League, and she has also had success with the freestyle Fargo team and the USAW freestyle team.

Grace Nesbitt hails from my alma mater, Neshaminy. She is a freshman there, and she actually took second place in this year's girls' State championship in the 100-pound weight class. She won the silver medal in this accomplishment, and she had a very distinguished 22-1 record and also winning the southeast regional title. And finally is Julia Horger, who won first place in the State championship in her 106-pound weight class in this year's PIAA State championship wrestling. She is a sophomore at Conwell-Egan [Catholic] High School. She defeated a wrestler from Greenville Junior/Senior High School 9-3 to win that State championship, and she is also the southeast regional champion, and she was undefeated this season with 22 wins and 0 losses.

Maya Krieger, unfortunately, could not be with us today, but she is also a distinguished wrestler from our community. She is a student at Bensalem, and she was the PIAA runner-up in her weight class. Also joining these fine young ladies today are some of their family members, coaches, and representatives of their school district. I want to thank them for taking their time to be here. All of us, as we know, love to brag on the successes of people from our district, and especially the young future leaders. But if you think about it, these three young ladies who are here today, one is a freshman and two are sophomores, so I expect to have them back here for their successive years as they continue wrestling. And I think it is also very important to highlight the evolving sport of female wrestling in our schools, and I want to wish them much success as they move forward, not just with their athletic endeavors, but their future academic successes as well. So, ladies, thank you for being here. Coaches, thank you for being here, and your family members who are here as well, and I ask the Senate to give them a warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

### **LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

### **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 have the pleasure of introducing State champions from Berks County. Seated in the gallery are the Governor Mifflin Lady Mustangs. They are the 2024 Pennsylvania State high school girls' bowling team champions. The Lady Mustangs finished their season 38-1 and led the league with an 881 aggregate average. This is the first State title for the Lady Mustangs in program history, and I am sure they are justifiably proud of this accomplishment. I know I am certainly proud of them. Please join me in welcoming Valleri Addis, team captain and Bowler of the Year; Lily Watts; Alisha Hess; Serina Miller; Ciandra Diaz; Antonia Pitruzzella; and their coaches. Mr. President, would you join me in asking our colleagues to offer a warm welcome to this great team.

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

[Applause.]

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

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

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to welcome members of the Conestoga High School Swimming Team to celebrate their wins during the 2023-2024 PIAA State Swimming and Diving Championships. Jake Wang won first place in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard individual medley. Can Yeniay won first place in the 200-yard freestyle and the 500-yard freestyle. The team of Jake Wang, Brock Whitaker, Liam Haas, and Can Yeniay won first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay event with a time of 1:22.03. Jake Wang, Brock Whitaker, Hutch Wood, and Can Yeniay won first place in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Finally, Avery Hillier is being honored upon capturing first place in the Class AAA girls' 1-meter diving event with a score of 478.4. Thank you so much to the coaches who supported the team along the way, including Mark Tirone and Leah Roberts. We wish the very, very best to our graduating seniors and hope you carry the memories of these victories for years to come. Please join me in extending congratulations and a warm Senate welcome to members of the Conestoga High School Swimming Team.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR NIKIL SAVAL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, today I rise to welcome and introduce a remarkable organization dedicated to making a

profound difference in the lives of young people and communities called Philly BOLT. BOLT stands for Build Our Lives Together. It is a nonprofit that embodies the essence of community-driven change. The vision of Philly BOLT is simple yet profound: to see every neighborhood thrive, led by the very people who call those neighborhoods home. Philly BOLT focuses on empowering BIPOC residents of low-income areas to become the drivers of positive transformation. What sets them apart is their commitment to intergenerational leadership development, recognizing the importance of nurturing both seasoned community leaders and the emerging voices of tomorrow. Their accomplishments speak volumes. The BOLT School for Grassroots Leadership offers intensive training and mentorship to community leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to effect meaningful change. Additional programs like the Your Leaders Fellowship engage public high school students, inspiring them to explore pathways to leadership within Philadelphia. Today we are privileged, I am privileged, to have 35 students from Philly BOLT with us representing schools like Academy at Palumbo and West Philly High. We also extend our welcome to Hillary Do, the executive director and founder of Philly BOLT; Jalen Belgrave, the Philly BOLT community engagement coordinator; Kenneth Brown, Khalil Williams, Shaneice Blake, who are educators from West Philly High; and Charlie McGeehan, an educator at Academy at Palumbo in my district. Please join me in welcoming and extending to Philly BOLT our usual warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

**CALENDAR**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

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

**BILL REREFERRED**

**SB 346 (Pr. No. 461)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill was rereferred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

**BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

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

**BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 739 (Pr. No. 1590)** -- 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 telemedicine.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Beaver, Senator Vogel.

Senator VOGEL. Mr. President, today I rise and ask for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 739. Over the last decade, we have seen how the healthcare industry has made huge advancements with not only how they treat patients, but how they interact with them. As we saw both prior to and throughout the pandemic, the emphasis on telemedicine has grown immensely as it offers Pennsylvanians another avenue to receive care that best fits their personal situation. Over the course of my time here, I have worked alongside my colleagues and stakeholders to put forth a solution that vastly improved the availability of healthcare options for people in rural or urban areas and strengthen the bond between patients and their doctors. My legislation, Senate Bill No. 739, does just that by focusing on building the telemedicine infrastructure and how to affordably increase the access to healthcare. Some highlights from my legislation include defining telemedicine as the delivery of healthcare services provided through telecommunications technology to a patient by a healthcare practitioner who is in another location and providing clarity around insurance company reimbursements for these services. Although this legislation requires payments for telemedicine services, those payments will be established between the provider and the insurer. Access to telemedicine is an essential service for all Pennsylvanians, especially for those suffering from chronic illnesses, homebound seniors, and rural-area families who must travel far distances for medical care. I would like to thank the various healthcare providers and insurers who have shown their continued support for this legislation. I also want to thank all the staff who have been an integral part in helping craft and perfect this bill over the last several years. This has been a long time coming and would not have gotten to the vote this day if it were not for all those who have been involved during the legislative process. Telemedicine is a critically necessary option that needs to be made more readily available to all

Pennsylvanians. In past Sessions, this legislation has received strong bipartisan support. Again, I ask for your affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator STREET. Mr. President, I too rise to urge an affirmative vote on this legislation. This is a bill that has come before this body many times. It is legislation that would provide an opportunity for people to access care remotely, something that we found to be tremendously beneficial during the pandemic. But post-pandemic, there are many folks in all walks of life; certainly, it is important to our rural Pennsylvanians, but even in urban settings, particularly for seniors who can access routine care without going out and then determine whether or not they need to get more in-person care. This legislation facilitates them being able to access services in that way. I want to thank the maker for being vigilant and thank the body for this time, once again, moving this legislation forward in a way that addresses just the issues of telemedicine and allows us to provide the structure needed for this valuable service to so many Pennsylvanians. I urge a "yes" vote.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Mr. President, I too rise in support of this legislation and first want to give commendation to my colleague and fellow cochair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Senator Vogel, for his persistence in working to try to get this over the finish line. This is extremely important. Yesterday we had a conversation about a tax reduction, and among the discussion that I heard on the floor was about the reduction in the number of people who are living in Pennsylvania, that our population is aging, and it is declining. And I noted as I heard various speakers, many of the places that they come from are rural areas where the problem with the population decline is particularly acute. So, when we talk about telemedicine, we often think of rural health and making sure that we have access to healthcare for individuals who live in those areas. We know that we have areas where we have got maternal deserts, in terms of maternal healthcare deserts, because of the fact that we simply have hospitals closing and physicians leaving as well. So certainly, it is one answer to use telehealth to help get healthcare to people who need it in rural areas. But as my colleague Senator Street said, it helps people who are seniors. It helps people who are pretty busy that have lives that sometimes they cannot get an appointment. All of us who have had the experience of trying to get an appointment not only with a primary care physician, let alone a specialist, and being able to find the time to do that that is convenient for both parties is really difficult.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in physical therapy via telehealth. It was an experimental program, and it was really helpful. I am continuing to do it. I get positive feedback. I think it is generated by AI; however, it is certainly encouraging

and helping on a condition that I experienced--a health condition. So, I urge people to think about this as a possibility as we go forward. Governor Shapiro recently convened a committee to work on--or a council--to work on rural healthcare, and as well as we here in the Senate have introduced--Senator Yaw and myself--have introduced legislation to look at some of the problems that we face in terms of the population decline, particularly in rural areas in the Commonwealth. Again, this telemedicine is not just for people in rural areas, but for all Pennsylvanians. I think we are making a really positive step here, and hopeful this gets to the Governor's desk as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-47

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

NAY-1

Hutchinson

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

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

Considered the 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-48

Argall	Costa	Kearney	Santarsiero
Aument	Culver	Langerholc	Saval
Baker	Dillon	Laughlin	Schwank
Bartolotta	DiSanto	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Dush	Miller	Street

Brewster	Farry	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Flynn	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Fontana	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Gebhard	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Haywood	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1058, SB 1087, SB 1165 and SB 1173** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

PREFERRED APPROPRIATION BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMITTED

**SB 1001 (Pr. No. 1446)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

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

**SB 1002 (Pr. No. 1447)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Professional Licensure Augmentation Account and from restricted revenue accounts within the General Fund to the Department of State for use by the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs in support of the professional licensure boards assigned thereto.

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

**SB 1003 (Pr. No. 1448)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Workmen's Compensation Administration Fund to the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Community and Economic Development to provide for the expenses of administering the Workers' Compensation Act, The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act and the Office of Small Business Advocate for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

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

**SB 1004 (Pr. No. 1449)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Small Business Advocate in the Department of Community and Economic Development.

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

**SB 1005 (Pr. No. 1450)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making an appropriation from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Office of Consumer Advocate in the Office of Attorney General.

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

**SB 1006 (Pr. No. 1451)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and from the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

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

**SB 1007 (Pr. No. 1452)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the State Employees' Retirement Fund and from the SERS Defined Contribution Fund to provide for expenses of the State Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

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

**SB 1008 (Pr. No. 1453)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the Philadelphia Taxicab and Limousine Regulatory Fund and the Philadelphia Taxicab Medallion Fund to the Philadelphia Parking Authority for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

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

**SB 1009 (Pr. No. 1454)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from a restricted revenue account within the General Fund and from Federal augmentation funds to the

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

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

**SB 1010 (Pr. No. 1455)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act making appropriations from the restricted revenue accounts within the State Gaming Fund and from the restricted revenue accounts within the Fantasy Contest Fund and Video Gaming Fund to the Attorney General, the Department of Revenue, the Pennsylvania State Police and the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

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

**SB 1001, SB 1002, SB 1003, SB 1004, SB 1005, SB 1006, SB 1007, SB 1008, SB 1009 and SB 1010** -- Upon motion of Senator AUMENT, and agreed to by voice vote, the bills just considered were recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations.

## SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

### BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 77 (Pr. No. 85)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

**SB 99 (Pr. No. 438)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in county boards of elections, further providing for expenses of county boards and of primaries and elections to be paid by county, expenses of special elections and boards to be provided with offices; in voting by qualified absentee electors, further providing for date of application for absentee ballot and for voting by absentee electors; and, in voting by qualified mail-in electors, further providing for voting by mail-in electors.

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

## BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 219** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

## BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 250 (Pr. No. 1432)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in ballots, providing for antifraud ballot paper, vendor certification and antifraud measures.

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

## BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

**SB 454 (Pr. No. 1430)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

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

## BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 501, SB 525 and SB 577** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

## BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 645 (Pr. No. 686)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

## BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**HB 660 (Pr. No. 2785)** -- 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 pet insurance; and imposing penalties.

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

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**HB 775** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its  
 order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

**SB 795 (Pr. No. 1587)** -- The Senate proceeded to considera-  
 tion of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
 as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Pennsylvania Award  
 for Student Success Scholarship Program.

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

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 800** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its  
 order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

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

**SB 1021 (Pr. No. 1431)** -- The Senate proceeded to consider-  
 ation of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylva-  
 nia Consolidated Statutes, in burglary and other criminal intrusion,  
 further providing for the offense of criminal trespass; and, in offenses  
 against the family, further providing for the offense of endangering wel-  
 fare of children.

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

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

#### BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 1084 (Pr. No. 1440)** -- The Senate proceeded to consider-  
 ation of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 13 (Commercial Code) and 20 (Decedents,  
 Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, ex-  
 tensively revising the Uniform Commercial Code to accommodate  
 emerging technologies utilized in commercial transactions: In general  
 provisions: Further providing for general definitions, for value, for terri-  
 torial applicability and parties' power to choose applicable law and for  
 waiver or renunciation of claim or right after breach. In sales: Further  
 providing for scope and certain security and other transactions excluded  
 from division, for definitions of "contract," "agreement," "contract for  
 sale," "sale," "present sale," "conforming" to contract, "termination" and  
 "cancellation," for formal requirements and statute of frauds, for final  
 written expression and parol or extrinsic evidence, for seals inoperative,  
 for firm offers and for modification, rescission and waiver. In leases: Fur-  
 ther providing for scope, for definitions and index of definitions, for  
 waiver or renunciation of claim or right after default, for statute of frauds,  
 for final written expression and parol or extrinsic evidence, for seals

inoperative, for firm offers, for modification, rescission and waiver and  
 for exclusion or modification of warranties. In negotiable instruments:  
 Further providing for negotiable instrument, for issue of instrument, for  
 signature and for discharge by cancellation or renunciation. In funds  
 transfers: Further providing for payment order and definitions, for secu-  
 rity procedure, for authorized and verified payment orders, for unen-  
 forceability of certain verified payment orders, for misdescription of ben-  
 efiiciary, for misdescription of intermediary bank or beneficiary's bank,  
 for rejection of payment order, for cancellation and amendment of pay-  
 ment order and for liability for late or improper execution or failure to  
 execute payment order. In letters of credit: Further providing for formal  
 requirements and for choice of law and forum. In warehouse receipts,  
 bills of lading and other documents of title: Further providing for defini-  
 tions and index of definitions and for control of electronic document of  
 title. In investment securities: Further providing for definitions, for rules  
 for determining whether certain obligations and interests are securities or  
 financial assets, for control, for applicability and choice of law and for  
 protected purchaser. In secured transactions: Further providing for defi-  
 nitions and index of definitions, for control of deposit account and for  
 control of electronic chattel paper. Providing for control of controllable  
 electronic record, controllable account or controllable payment intangi-  
 ble. Further providing for attachment and enforceability of security in-  
 terest, proceeds, supporting obligations and formal requisites, for after-  
 acquired property and future advances, for rights and duties of secured  
 party having possession or control of collateral, for additional duties of  
 secured party having control of collateral, for duties of secured party if  
 account debtor has been notified of assignment, for request for account-  
 ing and request regarding list of collateral or statement of account, for  
 law governing perfection and priority of security interests, for law gov-  
 erning perfection and priority of security interests in deposit accounts  
 and for law governing perfection and priority of security interests in in-  
 vestment property. Providing for law governing perfection and priority  
 of security interests in chattel paper and for law governing perfection and  
 priority of security interests in controllable accounts, controllable elec-  
 tronic records and controllable payment intangibles. Further providing  
 for when filing required to perfect security interest or agricultural lien  
 and security interests and agricultural liens to which filing provisions do  
 not apply, for perfection of security interests in chattel paper, deposit ac-  
 counts, documents, goods covered by documents, instruments, invest-  
 ment property, letter-of-credit rights and money, perfection by permis-  
 sive filing and temporary perfection without filing or transfer of  
 possession, for when possession by or delivery to secured party perfects  
 security interest without filing and for perfection by control. Providing  
 for perfection by possession and control of chattel paper. Further provid-  
 ing for effect of change in governing law, for interests which take priority  
 over or take free of security interest or agricultural lien, for priorities  
 among conflicting security interests in and agricultural liens on same col-  
 lateral, for future advances and for priority of purchase-money security  
 interests. Providing for priority of security interest in controllable ac-  
 count, controllable electronic record and controllable payment intangi-  
 ble. Further providing for priority of purchaser of chattel paper or instru-  
 ment, for priority of rights of purchasers of instruments, documents and  
 securities under other divisions, priority of interests in financial assets  
 and security entitlements under Division 8, for transfer of money and  
 transfer of funds from deposit account, for priority of security interests  
 in fixtures and crops, for bank's rights and duties with respect to deposit  
 account, for rights acquired by assignee and claims and defenses against  
 assignee, for discharge of account debtor, notification of assignment,  
 identification and proof of assignment, restrictions on assignment of ac-  
 counts, chattel paper, payment intangibles and promissory notes ineffec-  
 tive, for restrictions on assignment of promissory notes, health-care-in-  
 surance receivables and certain general intangibles ineffective, for  
 persons entitled to file a record, for termination statement, for rights after  
 default, judicial enforcement and consignor or buyer of accounts, chattel  
 paper, payment intangibles or promissory notes, for unknown debtor or  
 secondary obligor, for application of proceeds of collection or enforce-  
 ment and liability for deficiency and right to surplus, for notification be-  
 fore disposition of collateral, for contents and form of notification before  
 disposition of collateral, general, for contents and form of notification  
 before disposition of collateral, consumer-goods transaction, for applica-  
 tion of proceeds of disposition and liability for deficiency and right to  
 surplus, for explanation of calculation of surplus or deficiency, for trans-  
 fer of record or legal title, for acceptance of collateral in full or partial



satisfaction of obligation and compulsory disposition of collateral, for notification of proposal to accept collateral, for waiver and for nonliability and limitation on liability of secured party and liability of secondary obligor. In controllable electronic records: Providing for short title of division, for definitions, for relation to Division 9 and consumer laws, for rights in controllable account, controllable electronic record and controllable payment intangible, for control of controllable electronic record, for discharge of account debtor on controllable account or controllable payment intangible and for governing law. Providing for transition. In decedents, estates and fiduciaries, in powers of attorney: Further providing for authority that requires specific and general grant of authority. Making editorial changes.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

**HB 1097 (Pr. No. 1288)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for moment of silence on September 11 anniversary.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1108** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator AUMENT.

#### BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

**SB 1149 (Pr. No. 1576)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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.

Considered the second time and agreed to,

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

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

#### BILL OVER IN ORDER

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

#### SENATE RESOLUTION No. 223, ADOPTED

Senator AUMENT, without objection, called up from page 9 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 223**, entitled:

A Resolution urging the Federal Communications Commission and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to make a rule requiring automakers to maintain free, broadcast AM radio in all vehicles.

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

On the question,

Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 223, which urges Congress to keep AM radio viable by passing the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. New technology replacing old technology has become so commonplace that it rarely warrants a headline anymore. We are all attracted to the convenience, time-saving, and remarkable options that technology delivers. However, that does not mean that the purpose and utility of the displaced technology has vanished. Many in my generation grew up listening to AM radio when the transistor radios were cutting edge, but there remain many people across Pennsylvania who prefer to listen to their news, talk shows, and entertainment on AM radio. According to Vince Benedetto of Bold Gold Media, 80 million citizens in the United States still listen to AM radio versus only 30 million in subscription services. Today's discussion is about the free access of a valued source of information and a key to our public safety network. There is a crucial matter of the emergency alerts that come across AM radio. Talk to your local broadcasters in your area, and they will reinforce and tell you that AM radio is the lifeline during disasters large and small. The Federal government has invested millions of dollars into building the National Public Warning System and the Emergency Alert System, all of this around AM radio. Auto manufacturers are always seeking to eliminate what used to be standard options in the drive to compete for buyers with high-tech features. AM radio, unfortunately, is suspected to be on the chopping block. For that reason, Congress is hearing the same constituent concerns that we are. They have legislation to require manufacturers to keep providing AM radio for free.

While some people may not like a sort of mandate, it makes sense in terms of consumer preference and community safety. I believe this is the right cause at the right juncture for us to go on record supporting congressional action, hence the resolution before us. Something related in this discussion occurred to me. People grew up listening to vinyl records saw the rise of compact discs, streaming services, and MP3s. Vinyl was relegated to the nostalgia market, then something amazing happened. Last year, for the first time in 3 decades, vinyl record sales surpassed that of CDs. So, the idea that we can always predict consumer taste and shifting preferences is a little misplaced. The Founding Fathers knew that ensuring diversity of expression was indispensable to the development of our flourishing democracy. Ensuring that AM radio is not sacrificed on the altar of carmaker profits seems consistent with the belief of those who crafted the First Amendment. We all know that broadcast radio is the ultimate platform for free speech. It is also the backbone of our emergency response system and a key component of our Commonwealth's domestic security efforts. So, please join me in support of Senate Resolution No. 223. It is vital to keep AM radio going strong for all.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Gebhard has returned, and his legislative leave is cancelled.

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

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Cumberland, Senator Rothman.

Senator ROTHMAN. Mr. President, I just wanted to thank the gentlelady from Luzerne County for this very important resolution as someone who only listens to AM radio. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-47

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

NAY-1

Coleman

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

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.  
The bills were as follows:

SB 841 and SB 1026.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 194, 742, 1051, 1084, 1102, 1104 and 1149; Rules Committee Conference Room and House Bills No. 660, 1097, 1477 and 1760)

Off the Floor RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 277) Rules Committee Conference Room

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024

10:00 A.M. APPROPRIATIONS and EDUCATION (joint public hearing on Total Experience Learning Program) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024

9:30 A.M. LABOR AND INDUSTRY (to consider Senate Bills No. 1177 and 1232; and House Bill No. 1333) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

10:30 A.M. FINANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 858; and House Bill No. 1745) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator SAVAL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on a resolution I plan to introduce in the near future along [with] my friends and colleagues Senator Tina Tartaglione and Senator Vincent Hughes to recognize the week of May 5 through May 11 as Youth Apprenticeship Week in Pennsylvania. Youth apprenticeships are work-based learning initiatives that connect young people with opportunities that foster their growth, knowledge, and capacity. Across our country, throughout our Commonwealth, and in our communities, employers, educators, and labor unions are launching registered apprenticeship programs that allow young participants to earn competitive wages as they gain the training and experience they need to embark on their careers. Youth apprenticeships honor our young people for who they are right now while simultaneously investing in the lives they will build in the future. These opportunities are vital for young people. They create pathways for youth to enter the workforce via hands-on experience, supplemental education, and mentorship. Youth apprenticeships enrich our communities. When young people receive the training, skills, and support they need to build their futures, families and neighborhoods benefit from their success.

Lastly, youth apprenticeships fortify our Commonwealth. Registered apprenticeships create a sustainable pipeline of skilled and diverse talent across historic and developing industries, all while providing access to family-sustaining jobs. This year marks the first time ever that the U.S. Department of Labor has officially recognized Youth Apprenticeship Week over this same time period. With a strong tradition of trades and skilled labor that stretches long before the founding of our Commonwealth, it is right and fitting that Pennsylvania honor this history and officially recognize Youth Apprenticeship Week. The momentum for Pennsylvania to recognize Youth Apprenticeship Week comes

from a member of my team, my constituent services representative, Renee Wilson. Renee has long been a force for organized labor in Philadelphia in addition to being a tireless advocate on behalf of Philadelphia's youth and communities. She is part of the team that the Philadelphia AFL-CIO has assembled to create Youth Apprenticeship Week events in our city, and it is her vision that set the work to expand recognition statewide in motion. With Senator Tartaglione and Senator Hughes, I am proud to lift this message here in our home State in celebration and support of Pennsylvania's youth and their brilliance and capacity to drive our Commonwealth forward. I hope all our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this important resolution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, thank you, Senator Saval, for bringing attention to the importance of youth apprenticeships and exposing children to the well-paying, family-sustaining careers of the future. Recognizing the week of May 5 through 11 as the first annual Youth Apprenticeship Week is crucial in acknowledging the power of getting youth aged 16 to 24 into apprenticeship programs. Each day this week has a theme which helps bring attention to the importance of apprenticeships. Today's theme, "Expanding Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities for Underserved Populations," feels especially fitting. My district and communities across our Commonwealth desperately need investment in an expansion of apprentice programs to help students and adults acquire skills for the future. Just yesterday, Mr. President, I had parents of school children from my district in my office advocating for expanding the trades and apprenticeship programs. They know every child is not destined to a two- or four-year college degree, and that is okay. Youth apprenticeship programs play a vital role in bridging the gap between education and employment by offering young individuals hands-on experience and practical skill training. We need to ensure that we empower students and their parents to make the best decisions possible for their future. Often, this includes students entering the trades and other non-college careers. I am proud to support apprenticeships and to stand today with my colleagues in recognizing the week of May 5 through 11 as Youth Apprenticeship Week in the Commonwealth.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,513 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage, and day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, I come up to this podium and tell the same story, a story of [a] struggling Commonwealth that has forgotten about its minimum-wage and low-wage earners. Between rising housing costs, higher prices at the grocery store, and the cost of healthcare going through the roof, we are leaving behind hardworking Pennsylvanians. And what is one of the first things that falls when workers struggle to make

ends meet when they balance their checkbooks? Retirement savings. According to a recent Pew study, nearly 51 percent of Americans are worried they will run out of money at some time during their retirement. The same survey found that 70 percent of workers also wish they had started saving earlier for their retirement. Imagine, Mr. President, working your whole career to set aside funds for retirement while struggling with the relentless challenge of a poverty-level wage. It is an untenable situation that undermines the very idea of one's golden years, Mr. President.

We promised our nation's workers that if we work hard, they will be rewarded with a relaxing retirement at the end of their careers. But with our minimum wage, Mr. President, how can we expect anyone to save for their retirement when they cannot afford their basic necessities? According to financial experts, Mr. President, the recommended savings for retirement is 6 times one's current income at age 50. But for minimum-wage earners, achieving this target is nearly impossible, leaving their future financial situation in a perilous place. That is why we must band together and pass a living wage for all Pennsylvanians. Ensuring older Pennsylvanians can retire comfortably is not just good fiscal policy, Mr. President, it is a fundamental matter of compassion and justice. That is why I advocate every day for a living wage for all Pennsylvanians and have introduced legislation that would put Pennsylvania's minimum-wage and low-wage earners on a path to \$20. We need to ensure all Pennsylvanians are able to survive not just now, but down the road as well on the income they make. We need to come together and pass meaningful minimum-wage reform.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator FARRY. Mr. President, I am proud to join with President pro tempore Senator Kim Ward in naming May Mammogram Month here in Pennsylvania. The goal is to continue to drive awareness on the importance of early diagnosis for Pennsylvania's women. Three in 4 women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease and are not considered high risk. Nationally, 1 in 4 women between the ages of 50 and 74 have not received a mammogram in the last 2 years. Mammograms are vital for the early detection of cancer long before the lump can be felt and when it is in its most treatable form. Early detection significantly enhances the chances of survival, and regular mammograms, when conducted annually, offer the best opportunity for early detection. Last May, Pennsylvania took a critical step forward in the battle against breast cancer with the passage of Senate Bill No. 8 that was prime sponsored by Senator Kim Ward and became law as Act 1 of 2023. This first-of-its-kind legislation in the nation eliminates all expenses linked to breast cancer detection for high-risk Pennsylvanians under State law, which encompasses MRIs, breast ultrasounds, BRCA detection, and counseling.

I could tell you, Mr. Speaker, 30 women are diagnosed every day in Pennsylvania with breast cancer. This matter is near and dear to me and is very personal as my wife was one of those 30 women earlier this year. Thankfully, through a self-exam, she was able to feel a lump, and she was able to get a mammogram and ultimately biopsies, which unfortunately showed that that lump was cancerous. We have been on quite a bumpy road over the last many months as my wife has battled this terrible disease, but we

are on a bumpy road to a good destination. She is a little over 3 months into her 5 months of chemotherapy, surgery will be in her future later this summer, and then some radiation treatments in the fall, and I look forward to standing at this same microphone announcing she is cancer free later this year. So, I stand here to speak to you today to speak to Pennsylvanians. If you are a spouse of a woman in this Commonwealth today, please encourage her to get a mammogram and have that early detection. My wife is 40 years old and battling breast cancer right now. So, I think it is important that we, as the spouses, you know, stand by our loved ones and encourage them to get the testing for that early detection. And if you are a woman in this Commonwealth, please, please take this matter seriously, it truly is a matter of life or death, but that early detection and that early treatment is the road to a successful battle with cancer.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Thank you, Senator Farry, and also, my mother is a breast cancer survivor as well, so I know the road you are going down, and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your wife. So, thank you very much.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, first let me start by also recognizing and thanking the gentleman from Bucks County for his comments on how important it is: early detection and mammograms and the like. And, you know, say thank him for the work that he has done, and certainly our pro tem, the work, leadership that she has done in this space as well, how important it is. And certainly, wish all the very best to Frank's wife and hope everything continues to move forward in a positive way, in a positive light. But thank you for raising the awareness of how important it is to be able to have these kind of conversations. It is important. We know that it has touched you personally, and please know that our Members are thinking of you and your wife through these many months and will continue to do so and wish you all the best.

The second thing, Mr. President, my colleague Senator Muth had to leave the floor, but she would like to provide remarks for the record. Those remarks are actually being prepared right now, and will be transmitted to the Chief Clerk, or to the Senate Secretary I should say, momentarily, but I want to make certain we got those remarks on the record.

The third thing, Mr. President, is this weekend is Mother's Day, and I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our moms here in the Senate Chamber and all of our staff folks who are moms and the Commonwealth moms a happy Mother's Day and say our moms are very special, and it is important that we continue to recognize them for the wonderful things that they do for all of us. And I just wanted to take a short moment to say happy Mother's Day to all the moms both here in the Capitol building who work with us every day and the challenges they do, particularly as it relates to childcare and the things of that nature, how they balance all their interests along those lines. We appreciate the work that they do here in Harrisburg and all of our colleagues.

Mr. President, I also want to talk a little bit today about mental health and mental health awareness. In fact, this month is Mental Health Awareness Month, the month of May, and our colleagues here on the Senate Democratic Caucus, we are committed to providing and delivering quality, affordable healthcare to every Pennsylvanian, and most importantly, including healthcare

coverage related to mental health programs. In last year's budget, Mr. President, I was proud to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as well when, together, we championed a \$100 million investment in mental health resources to our schools so that our students can get the care that they need in the schools as they attend each day. All of our school districts back in our home districts have benefited from this funding. This year, Governor Shapiro has recommended in his budget, it also will include some critical mental health spending which includes the following: the proposal includes \$483 million in Federal and State funding to support rate increases to service providers, which we desperately need more of; \$78 million in Federal and State funds to serve an additional 1,500 Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism, currently on a waiting list up into next fiscal year.

Our Senate Democratic Caucus has put forth various pieces of legislation that will continue to support not only our mental health recipients, but also our mental health providers as they seek to deliver treatment for our residents. Senate Bill No. 605 by Senator Maria Collett would take the recommendations of the Behavioral Health Commission on [for] Adult Mental Health and put them into legislation. It would fund workforce development services, service delivery, and expand access to treatment and do much more. Senator Comitta and Senator Dillon introduced Senate Bill No. 684 to amend the Human Services Code requiring net pay rates for direct support professionals, DSPs, annually be set based on a national market consumer index. Senator Carolyn Comitta and Senator Brown, in a bipartisan way, would require that Pennsylvania's Department of Education to assist the needs of each school district and then assess the progress in establishing the community health infrastructure necessary to screen their students. Senator Jim Dillon, Senator Tina Tartaglione, and Senator John Kane introduced Senate Bill No. 874, which will allow qualified substance use disorder counselors who have committed at least 2 years of service and who have achieved a minimum of 6 months tenure at a licensed treatment facility to receive student loan forgiveness, which will be capped at \$6,250 per year and totaling no more than \$25,000 per applicant. We hear constantly from the providers. In fact, just this week, I talked with Deb Beck, who many of us know in this space, who lamented the fact that we need more resources and we need more counselors, drug and alcohol counselors, in this Commonwealth, because it is reaching a crisis situation. The trio also introduced Senate Bill No. 877 to require insurance companies, CHIP, and Medicaid to provide their insured with a bi-annual summary of insurance benefits for recovery treatment. And finally, Senator John Kane and Senator Judy Schwank introduced Senate Bill No. 886 to allow students to take excused absences to help them treat and recover from mental health issues. Senator Tim Kearney and Senator Steve Santarsiero have introduced Senate Bill No. 294 to require that Pennsylvania insurers cover effective care for treating eating disorders and underlying issues that cause them. And Senator Schwank would also allow two mental health days per semester as an excused absence.

Mr. President, as we work through this budget process, we have had a lot of conversations over the last several weeks here about how we ought to utilize resources along the lines of the surplus that we have. I cannot think of any other better way to be able to incorporate the things that we talked about, particularly providing resources and investing these resources--our

providers--into our healthcare delivery system, particularly the mental health delivery system, and utilizing those resources for that purpose. Senate Democrats believe it is appropriate that we begin to have this conversation now as we come back in early June, have the opportunity to be able to talk about these policy matters coupled with a conversation about making investments by utilizing the expansive surplus that we have currently before us. So, I thank all my colleagues for the opportunity to provide these remarks and look forward to working with Members as we did before on many of these issues going forward.

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 Senator from Montgomery, Senator MUTH:)*

Mr. President, I rise today to add some additional context to yesterday's debate on Senate Bill No. 269, what started as a well-intentioned tax incentive for volunteer EMTs but was hijacked via an amendment offered and passed by the Majority Party. Instead of going through the normal process, the Majority amended this language, which could result in billions of dollars in lost revenue--revenue that funds the operations of our State agencies and programs--into a bill in the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations with no live stream available, no public hearing, no public awareness or input, no data or fiscal analysis, and less than 24 hours for our Members to fully understand the impact of this bill. It is insulting that this effort was touted as a transparent process, as was mentioned in yesterday's floor debate.

Mr. President, according to the Pennsylvania Policy Center, as passed yesterday, Senate Bill No. 269 will reduce State revenues by \$2.8 billion by fiscal year 2026 and \$11.92 billion through fiscal year 2028-29. In other words, this plan will soon require deep cuts in funding that could result in funding reductions to education or other State programs regardless of what the courts have ordered this General Assembly to do. Based on data provided by the Pennsylvania Policy Center, the current bill shows it will, on average, reduce taxes for the top 1 percent of taxpayers with an average income of \$1.9 million by \$5,435 per year. It is clear that a tax cut of this kind will not help the majority of people living in our State, and the bill will most likely not reduce taxes for people in the bottom 20 percent by more than \$20. It is a troubling and unacceptable trend in this Chamber that the only proposals brought up for a vote prioritize the wealthiest Pennsylvanians and corporations over the vast majority [of] Pennsylvanians. Those speaking in favor of the bill on the floor yesterday framed Pennsylvania's aging population as a demographic burden, yet they failed to mention the thousands of retirees from our public school system who are living in poverty because their retirement and pension has not kept up with inflation, yet lawmakers get a cost-of-living adjustment to their pay on a regular basis.

Mr. President, if the Majority Party is serious about helping Pennsylvanians in need and putting money back into the pockets of Pennsylvania families, then they would run bills introduced by Senator Kane and I which would provide a cost-of-living increase to retired educators and school staff. Our retired educators, school personnel, and State workers, particularly those who retired before July 2001, are struggling to keep pace with the rising cost of living in our Commonwealth and across the country. Several measures show a cumulative rate of inflation of more than 50 percent from 2002 to 2023. In effect, the value of these retirees' payments is decreasing each year the legislature does not enact legislation that provides a COLA.

This Session, Senator Kane and I have introduced several bills that would provide a much-needed and long-overdue cost-of-living adjustment for Pennsylvania's retired school employees and our retired State workers. These bills would provide COLAs for annuitants with different percentage increases based on retirement year. These bills also specifically indicate that the Commonwealth--not our schools, not through property taxes--will be required to pay the cost for a PSERS COLA. Sadly, each Session that our legislature does not take action to provide a

COLA to these pre-Act 9 retirees, more and more of these individuals pass away. PSERS indicated to my staff that between June 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022, a total of 3,444 pre-Act 9 eligible PSERS members died; 7.3 percent of these eligible individuals passed away, and it is likely that many more died this past year as well. These individuals worked all of their lives to better our communities and improve our education system, and now they are sadly dying in poverty because the legislature has refused to enact a COLA for more than 20 years. Everyone deserves to live and to retire with dignity and financial security. Retired teachers, school employees, and State workers across our Commonwealth worked their entire lives and contributed so much to our communities and to our children only to struggle with the steady increases in cost of living since 2002.

Mr. President, playing politics to generate misleading headlines and passing partisan legislation that prioritizes the wealthiest Pennsylvanians and corporate giants over hardworking Pennsylvanians is no way to govern. In fact, it is an example of the many failures of government. Pennsylvanians deserve more out of their government. As we move toward June and budget negotiations, I will continue to fight for meaningful policy changes, and I really hope that the Majority begins to realize the plight and the suffering of low-income Pennsylvanians and considers measures that can help those in need, initiatives like a pre-Act 9 COLA or an increase in minimum wage, not more tax benefits for billionaires and greedy corporations who utilize tax loopholes and exploit consumers and workers. Pennsylvania is in desperate need of a Tax Code overhaul where everyone pays their fair share, and Senate Bill No. 269 in its current form is the exact opposite of fair.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Senate Resolution No. 268. This resolution marks May 19 through May 25 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Pennsylvania, which honors Pennsylvania's emergency medical services, or EMS, providers and their incredible work. These dedicated professionals perform important roles in our communities. Our EMS providers serve on the front lines of our healthcare system 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. It is fitting for us to set aside a week to recognize their important work. Pennsylvania's EMS system involves a network of emergency medical responders from ambulance attendants and paramedics to firefighters, police officers, and emergency room doctors and nurses. These outstanding men and women serve on the front lines in the effort to deliver emergency medical aid. They answer the call when sudden life-threatening illnesses or injuries occur, and these first responders provide life-saving care. They often do this at great risk to themselves. Whether at the scene of a brutal crime or a fire or a traffic accident, these first responders render aid and support. They arrive during the critical first moments of an accident and increase the victim's chance of survival.

In addition to recognizing their important work, this year's EMS Week marks an important milestone. It is the 50th anniversary of EMS Week. This year's theme is, appropriately, "Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future." The Pennsylvania Senate has done outstanding work in supporting our EMS in the past and will continue to do so in the future. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, I am pledging to continue that outstanding work. We have already delivered some good legislation this year, in fact. So, from May 19 through May 25, I encourage Pennsylvanians to honor and thank our EMS providers for their outstanding work and all they do to make our community safer and better.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**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 Monday, June 3, 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 11:15 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.