

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 18

**SENATE**

TUESDAY, June 4, 2024

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

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

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Reverend DAVID E. BOYLES, of the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Annville, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our God and Father, we come before You on this special day, humbled and grateful for the blessing we all receive each and every day through Your active presence. Lord, I pray this morning for those who work within this Chamber, I pray You give them the grace and confidence, the wisdom and fortitude needed to make the decisions necessary to honestly and effectively fulfill their responsibilities to the citizens of Pennsylvania. I thank You, Lord, for their willingness to serve, fulfilling crucial roles that go far beyond legislation, reaching out to every community and home with care and support and meeting the needs of those they represent.

A part of that support is shown here today through the recognition of the Pennsylvania National Guard. This recognition is a celebration of a relationship that stretches back to before the Revolution, a relationship between those that represent the citizen, and the citizen soldier. Since that time, the PA National Guard has played a crucial part in every conflict our country has been engaged. At every turn, soldiers and airmen stood ready to fight and defend our Commonwealth, our country, our safety, and our freedom. Today, they continue to stand ready. Ready to take up arms against our enemies, rescue those in harm's way, or support the needs of their communities. Regardless of the mission, the PA Guard has and will always be ready, and we can attribute that readiness, in part, to the unwavering support of those here today.

Lord, I pray for all those who serve within the PA Guard. Their willingness to take on the awesome responsibility of serving the Commonwealth and the country makes them a part of an elite group of citizens. They stand ready to set life aside for the sake of both neighbor and stranger. Time and time again they have shown their readiness and willingness to do whatever is necessary to complete the mission, even in making the ultimate sacrifice. This willingness to charge into a challenge that might require all they have to give stands as an example of the selfless character found at the foundation of every PA guardsman. I pray for those

willing to make that charge, keep them safe, bring them home. We all offer our thanks and gratitude to those who never did make it home. They stand in our memories as true heroes to whom we owe much more than we could ever repay. I pray for those also within our ranks who struggle with the demons of war and the difficulties of life. I pray You give them fresh eyes to see beyond their challenges and provide them the hope and purpose necessary to choose life even when it seems like life is not worth living.

Finally, Lord, I pray for all those in leadership, whether in government or in the Guard. May they have discerning hearts and bold faith. Give them purity in intentions and godliness in their convictions. Help them to be humble, sincere, and courageous. I pray Your blessing on today and all those here that support the day with all the praise and the glory in Your most holy Name. Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks Chaplain Boyles, who is the guest today of Senator Flynn.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER 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 BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF  
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 4, 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, William Gindlesperger, 165 Highfield Lane N, Chambersburg 17201, Franklin County, Thirty-third Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2024, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Allison Jones Manning, Philadelphia, resigned.

JOSH SHAPIRO  
Governor

**CORRECTION TO NOMINATION  
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER 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 BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF  
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 4, 2024

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

Please note that the letter dated June 3, 2024, for the nomination of Richard Caruso, 402 Balsam Court, Greensburg 15601, Westmoreland County, Thirty-ninth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Daniel Klingerman, Williamsport, whose term expired, should be corrected to read:

Richard Caruso, 200 Ryan Lane, PO Box 739, Meadow Lands 15347, Washington County, Forty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Board of Governors of the State System of Higher Education, to serve until December 31, 2026, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Daniel Klingerman, Williamsport, whose term expired.

**HOUSE MESSAGE**

**HOUSE CONCURS IN SENATE BILL**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives returned to the Senate **SB 1018**, with the information the House has passed the same without amendments.

**BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED**

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

June 4, 2024

Senators KEARNEY, SAVAL, COMITTA, CAPPELLETTI, COSTA, SCHWANK and DILLON presented to the Chair **SB 1076**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing integrated and distinct amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, repealing provisions relating to Legislative Redistricting Commission and providing for Independent Redistricting Commission and for redistricting criteria.

Which was committed to the Committee on STATE GOVERNMENT, June 4, 2024.

Senators BARTOLOTTA, ROTHMAN, VOGEL, BAKER, LANGERHOLC and J. WARD presented to the Chair **SB 1238**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, June 4, 2024.

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND REFERRED**

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolution numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which was read by the Clerk:

June 4, 2024

Senators VOGEL, FONTANA, MARTIN, HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, J. WARD, HUGHES and BREWSTER presented to the Chair **SR 304**, entitled:

A Resolution designating May 14, 2024, as "IgA Nephropathy Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, June 4, 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 committee indicated:

June 4, 2024

**HB 2233** and **2251** -- Committee on Transportation.

**GENERAL COMMUNICATION**

**REPORT PURSUANT TO ACT 3 OF 2008  
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY**

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

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY  
Office of the Controller  
1570 Baltimore Pike  
Lincoln University, PA 19352-0999

May 23, 2024

Pennsylvania General Assembly  
Right to Know Filings  
North Office Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3052

Pennsylvania General Assembly:

In accordance with Pennsylvania Right to Know Law Act 3 of 2008 Chapter 15 State-Related Institutions Section 1503 Contents of Report please find enclosed: Section 1503(1) – a copy of Lincoln University's Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, Section 1503(2) – a listing of salaries for all officers and directors of Lincoln University, and Section 1503(3) – a listing of the highest twenty-five salaries paid to employees of Lincoln University that are not included under paragraph (2).

In accordance with Pennsylvania Right to Know Law Act 3 of 2008 Chapter 15 State-Related Institutions Section 1502 Reporting this information is also being filed with the Governor's Office, the Auditor General, and the State Library.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (484) 365-8043.

Sincerely,

H. JONAS JAVIER  
Controller

The PRESIDING OFFICER. This report will be filed in the Library.

### APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

Ms. Heather L. Ruffner as an employee representative to the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

### APPOINTMENT BY THE MINORITY LEADER

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

Senator Arthur L. Haywood III as a member of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council.

### BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator JUDY WARD, from the Committee on Aging and Youth, reported the following bills:

#### SB 840 (Pr. No. 1676) (Amended)

An Act establishing the Alzheimer's, Dementia and Related Disorders Office and the Alzheimer's, Dementia and Related Disorders Advisory Committee.

#### HB 1853 (Pr. No. 2921)

An Act amending the act of July 19, 1979 (P.L.130, No.48), known as the Health Care Facilities Act, in licensing of health care facilities, further providing for administration.

Senator VOGEL, from the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs, reported the following bills:

#### SB 1203 (Pr. No. 1627)

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in food protection, further providing for rules and regulations.

#### SB 1229 (Pr. No. 1646)

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in crop insurance, further providing for short title of chapter, for purpose of chapter, for definitions, for establishment of program, for powers and duties of department, providing for Dairy Margin Coverage Program Financial Assistance; and making editorial changes.

#### HB 1889 (Pr. No. 2367)

An Act amending Title 3 (Agriculture) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in weights and measures, further providing for meter required.

Senator BROOKS, from the Committee on Health and Human Services, reported the following bill:

#### SB 1000 (Pr. No. 1677) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of November 21, 2016 (P.L.1318, No.169), known as the Pharmacy Audit Integrity and Transparency Act, further providing for title of act; in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in pharmacy audits, further providing for limitations; and providing for pharmacy benefit manager contract requirements and prohibited acts.

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

#### SB 186 (Pr. No. 1678) (Amended)

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, making editorial changes to replace references to the term "child pornography" with references to the term "child sexual abuse material."

#### SB 187 (Pr. No. 273)

An Act amending the act of November 30, 2004 (P.L.1556, No.197), known as the Child Internet Protection Act, further providing for title and for definitions; and making editorial changes.

#### SB 1213 (Pr. No. 1679) (Amended)

An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in sexual offenses, further providing for the offense of unlawful dissemination of intimate image; and, in minors, further providing for the offense of sexual abuse of children and for the offense of transmission of sexually explicit images by minor.

#### SB 1231 (Pr. No. 1666)

An Act amending Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in trusts, further providing for definitions - UTC 103, for trust instrument controls and mandatory rules - UTC 105, for governing law - UTC 107, for situs of trust, for nonjudicial settlement agreements - UTC 111, for charitable purposes; enforcement - UTC 405, for trust for care of animal - UTC 408, for noncharitable trust without ascertainable beneficiary - UTC 409, for reformation to correct mistakes - UTC 415, for modification to achieve settlor's tax objectives - UTC 416, for spendthrift provision - UTC 502, for creditor's claim against settlor - UTC 505(a), for overdue distribution - UTC 506, for revocation or amendment of revocable trust - UTC 602, for trustee's duties and powers of withdrawal - UTC 603, for accepting or declining trusteeship - UTC 701, for trustee's bond - UTC 702, for cotrustees - UTC 703, for vacancy in trusteeship and appointment of successor - UTC 704, for resignation of trustee and filing resignation, for compensation of trustee - UTC 708, for duty to administer trust - UTC 801, for duty of loyalty - UTC 802, for powers to direct - UTC 808, for duty to inform and report, for discretionary powers and for powers of trustees - UTC 815, providing for directed trusts, further providing for remedies for breach of trust--UTC 1001, providing for nonjudicial account settlement and further providing for reliance on trust instrument - UTC 1006, for exculpation of trustee - UTC 1008, for certification of trust - UTC 1013 and for title of purchaser.

#### SB 1236 (Pr. No. 1669)

An Act amending the act of April 6, 1951 (P.L.69, No.20), known as The Landlord and Tenant Act of 1951, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in recovery of possession, further providing for notice to quit; in repeals, providing for applicability; and making an editorial change.

Senator DUSH, from the Committee on State Government, reported the following bills:

**SB 1138 (Pr. No. 1531)**

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.

**SB 1183 (Pr. No. 1572)**

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions.

**RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

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

**SR 196 (Pr. No. 1680) (Amended)**

A Resolution directing the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to conduct a thorough and comprehensive study on the effects that post-traumatic stress disorder or injury, military sexual trauma and traumatic brain injury have on service members, veterans and their families who are directly or indirectly involved or implicated in any portion or component of the criminal justice system.

The resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE**

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

Senator ARGALL. Madam President, we need no leaves.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Boscola.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Boscola. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

**JOURNAL APPROVED**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Journal of the Session of April 8, 2024, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 8, 2024.

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

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

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

YEA-50

Argall	Culver	Langerholz	Santarsiero
Aument	Dillon	Laughlin	Saval

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Journal is approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR GENE YAW,  
SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA, AND  
SENATOR TRACY PENNYCUICK  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator YAW. Madam President, it is my pleasure to introduce Ambassador James K.J. Lee, Ambassador and Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York. Ambassador Lee earned a bachelor of arts degree from the Department of English Language and Literature in Fu Jen Catholic University in 1985 and completed his master's of business administration at the University of Hawaii in 1993. Ambassador Lee has an extensive background in international affairs, and most recently served as the Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 2018 to 2020, prior to his role as ambassador.

Madam President, as chairman of the Friends of Taiwan caucus, I rise today to welcome Ambassador Lee to the Senate floor and recognize his role in the continued enhancement of the economic and trade partnership between Pennsylvania and Taiwan. We have maintained a friendly sister-State relationship with Taiwan for many, many years, and this relationship is only getting stronger. In 2005, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established a trade and investment office in Taiwan, and since that time has exported hundreds of millions of dollars worth of local products, including chemicals, electronics, and machinery, making them one of the largest foreign markets for the State. For more than 60 years, Taiwan has worked to establish itself as a strong and successful model of democracy and remains a bright beacon of freedom in Asia and across the world. Our shared commitment to human rights, the rule of law, and the free-market economy have served as the cornerstone of the Pennsylvania-Taiwan relationship for decades. I look forward to seeing this enduring and mutually beneficial partnership that facilitates economic and cultural exchange continue to thrive for many, many years. I ask my colleagues to extend a warm Senate welcome to Ambassador Lee.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator COMITTA. Madam President, I rise today to join Senator Yaw in welcoming Ambassador James K.J. Lee to the Senate floor. As co-chair of the Friends of Taiwan caucus, we are delighted to have Ambassador Lee join us as we work to continue

to build our long-standing friendship. Taiwan remains an important trade partner for our Commonwealth and for our nation and one that shares our values of advancing democracy and protecting human rights. Forty-five years ago, Congress passed the landmark Taiwan Relations Act to sustain a close, bilateral relationship and to advance mutual security and commercial interests between the United States and Taiwan. Today, we look to a future where our partnership and our friendship can grow in prosperity and in peace. I want to thank Ambassador Lee for visiting our State Capitol and thank you to Senator Yaw and our fellow Members of the Pennsylvania Friends of Taiwan caucus for standing together to recommit ourselves to success and growth through our mutually beneficial relationship with Taiwan. Thank you so much.

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

Senator PENNYCUICK. Madam President, I am honored to introduce Ambassador Lee on the Senate floor today. I would like to thank my colleagues Senator Comitta and Senator Yaw for their efforts to organize our meetings today. Moments like this serve to strengthen the bond between the people of Taiwan and our great Commonwealth. Last year, I had the honor to visit Taiwan on a mission to strengthen our economic ties. I was greatly impressed by the leaders I met and the robust technology sector that is leading the region in many key innovative industries. Their entrepreneurial spirit, combined with their dedication to scientific research, served to distinguish Taiwan amongst the international community. Though geographically Pennsylvania and Taiwan could not be further apart, we recognize the deep cultural and economic connections our people share. Our community values of democracy and self-determination seem to shrink the thousands of miles separating our homelands. We both thrive on research and development, and our scholars and manufacturers regularly collaborate. Here at home, I have the privilege of representing the 24th Senatorial District, which encompasses part of Berks and Montgomery Counties. My district has one of the largest Asian American populations in Pennsylvania, and many residents share Taiwanese heritage. So, on behalf of my constituents, I would like to welcome Ambassador Lee and thank him for traveling to be here with us today as we celebrate and commemorate our Commonwealth's enduring relationship with Taiwan and its people.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

[Applause.]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will be at ease momentarily.

[The Senate was at ease.]

**GUEST OF SENATOR  
DOUGLAS V. MASTRIANO  
AND SENATOR KATIE J. MUTH  
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator MASTRIANO. Madam President, it is an honor to rise to recognize the 54th Adjutant General of our great National

Guard, Major General Mark Schindler, on the occasion of the Pennsylvania Guard and Veterans Day right here in our State Capitol. It is great to have you here, sir. Hooah. General Schindler is responsible for the command and control of over 18,000 Army and Air National Guard soldiers--the 3rd largest in the nation, but the best in the nation, hands down--as well as a complement of 2,500 Commonwealth employees, care of residential cadets at our Keystone Academy--I see some of those young people here--6 State-owned veterans homes and programs serving more than 700,000 Pennsylvanian patriot hero veterans.

General Schindler deployed as a commander of the 54th Military Engagement Team in Jordan during combat operations in support of OEF, Operation Enduring Freedom. Thank you for supporting that mission. He has received numerous awards that include the Legion of Merit, Army Commendation, Army Achievement, Air Force Achievement, and Joint Meritorious Unit Award, amongst many, many others. Last year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Pennsylvania National Guard's State partnership with Lithuania, the best State partnership that we have in the nation, and hopefully, we will add a new member of Sweden if we get our way. Today is Guard Day at the State Capitol, and with Guard members and booths and displays in the Keystone building, I encourage everyone to go over to the East Wing of the Rotunda and welcome our brothers and sisters in uniform and thank them for their service. Thank you, General Schindler, for being here.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator MUTH. Madam President, I rise today to welcome a very special guest to the Senate, our 54th Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, Major General Mark Schindler. Major General Schindler has done an amazing job leading our Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania National Guard. General Schindler oversees a combined State and Federal budget of nearly \$1 billion and is responsible for the command and control of over 18,000 Army and Air National Guard members, the 3rd largest in the nation. As Minority chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, it has been an honor working with General Schindler and his team on all the issues important to our veterans and to our Guard members. Actually, earlier this spring, General Schindler joined me at Southeastern Veterans' Center in the 44th Senatorial District, as he and I were both guest bingo callers for the veterans' afternoon bingo session. Even though that sounds like a simple, joyous event, it was somewhat stressful, operating a very historic, antique bingo machine, and just like everything else he does, General Schindler did it with grace, and it was a very humbling time, and the veterans enjoyed having him as their guest.

Our National Guard is one of the largest and most highly skilled Guards in the entire world, and it is critical to all of our communities whenever they are called upon. The nearly 20,000 members of the Pennsylvania National Guard are always ready to provide the assistance and support that we need, and we need to make sure that our legislature is keeping up with their needs and making sure that our strength of the Guard is preserved.

Already this Session, we have been able to move several bipartisan initiatives out of our committee and several through the Senate, both that were priorities of the Department of Military

and Veterans Affairs and the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations. As Senator Mastriano mentioned, today is National Guard Day in the Capitol, and the theme for the day is: ["Together We Serve:] Past, Present, and Future." And earlier today included an enlistment ceremony where 20 Army and Air Force recruits took an oath to join the military. I hope my colleagues in the Senate take some time today to visit the displays set up through the Capitol and along Commonwealth Avenue, demonstrating how the Pennsylvania National Guard and DMVA work together to serve our country, our Commonwealth, and our communities. Thank you again to Adjutant General Major General Schindler for your continued leadership and your collaboration, and thank you for your service. I ask that my colleagues please give Major General Schindler a warm Senate welcome. Thank you.

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

[Applause.]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. General Schindler, it would be our honor if you would now address the Senate.

Adjutant General SCHINDLER. Well, good afternoon. I would like to thank Lieutenant Governor Davis, President pro tempore Ward, Leader Pittman, Leader Costa, Members of the Senate, distinguished guests, and, of course, friends of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Thank you for joining with me today to celebrate the contributions of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Whether serving locally within our Commonwealth or answering our nation's call to serve throughout the world, your National Guard is always ready, always there, always on mission. But we do not do it alone, we serve together with our families, communities, and governmental leadership. Past, present, and into the future, together we serve.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge, and we are pleased to have a veteran with us today who survived that brutal winter battle, Benjamin Melvin Berry of Philadelphia. Drafted into service as a young man, Mr. Berry was a cook, but during the Battle of the Bulge, he lowered his ladle and raised his rifle. Mr. Berry, thank you for joining us today. [Applause.] World War II veterans set the standard for uniformed service. Those of us in uniform today try to emulate the values of those who came before us. We lean into your past and present examples of courage and resilience as together we serve into the future. Mr. Berry was in Belgium, that cold winter so long ago, to defend against Hitler's drive toward Germany. The Germans drove into the Ardennes Forest. The Allied line took on the appearance of a large bulge as the enemy troops tried to divide the Allies. Thus, the battle of the Ardennes became known as the Battle of the Bulge. Troops from Britain, France, and United States held strong in that frigid forest, including our own "Men of Iron," the 28th Infantry Keystone Division. The battle raged, but our Pennsylvanian soldiers were there to strike a blow to the enemy; they did just that. Though casualties were mournfully high, the German offensive was destructed. Today, we as Pennsylvanians have as our history the legacy of veterans, including those from World War II and Pennsylvania National Guard soldiers and airmen who stand firm when facing the enemy and preserve our freedom, our American way of life. Therefore, today and every day, we honor our veterans, especially those in our own Pennsylvania National Guard. Incredibly, it has been 80 years since the

Battle of the Bulge. And while uniforms, equipment, tactics have changed, our National Guardsmen have not, they remain always ready, always there.

Like the brothers and sisters in arms that came before them, our soldiers and airmen lace up their boots and go wherever and whenever they are needed. In our ranks, we have seasoned veterans like Command Sergeant Major Phillips, who is with me today. Command Sergeant Major Phillips has 36 years of experience. Excitingly, we look into the future with 20 new recruits who choose to serve, recruits sworn in this morning with unique talents and gifts that they will utilize as they become the next generation of your National Guard. Stephen Baker and Austin Stern are with me today. They are the future of the Pennsylvania National Guard. Thank you all for your united support of our National Guard. Together, we serve Pennsylvania and our nation. More than a theme or catchphrase, "Together We Serve" is a call to action, a reminder of our shared responsibility to honor the past, support the present, and inspire the future. Together we support Pennsylvania's veterans, we are thankful for the security their service provided. Together we acknowledge those who currently serve, we are grateful for their abiding loyalty to our country and its people. Together we look with confidence upon our new recruits to be our future. Together we serve. Thank you all so much for the opportunity today. Thank you.

[Applause.]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks General Schindler. The Senate will be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

#### **GUEST OF SENATOR LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Madam President, I rise to introduce my intern who is joining us in Harrisburg today, Abigail DiLoreto. While normally our district office intern joins us in Harrisburg for a day or two to get a glimpse of what the Capitol is like, Abby's visit is a little different. She is here today working as an assistant for the National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Pennsylvania program. NEW Leadership Pennsylvania is an intensive, 6-day leadership and public policy institute designed to educate and empower young women for future political participation and leadership. The program addresses the underrepresentation of women in the political arena by focusing on the role of women in politics and policymaking here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Programs like NEW Leadership Pennsylvania and its sponsor, the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics at Chatham University, were a big draw for Abby--who was originally from Connecticut--to come to Pittsburgh for college. She is now a rising senior at Chatham University, where she is majoring in political science and psychology with a minor in pre-law and her certificate in women's leadership. After participating in the program back in 2022, Abby has been helping empower other young women by working as an outreach and communications assistant for the Center for Women and Politics.

She started an internship with my office at the beginning of this year and has been an incredible help with constituent services, especially as we navigated our annual tax preparation

appointment scheduling and senior bus pass renewals. Her help during that time was absolutely invaluable, and I am not sure that we would have survived without you, Abby. We are all very excited to have her extend her internship and stay with us for the summer. Somehow, between balancing her coursework, making dean's list, her work at the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics, and her internship in my office, Abby is also a member of the Chatham University soccer team and a PAC Academic Honor Roll student. I am incredibly proud to introduce Abby to the Pennsylvania Senate today for the first time, but I am sure it will not be the last that we see her. Abby, I am so proud of your hard work and the dedicated woman you are. You are going to do amazing things. Please join me in giving Abigail DiLoreto our traditional warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUEST OF SENATOR MARTY FLYNN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lackawanna, Senator Flynn.

Senator FLYNN. Madam President, I rise to introduce today's guest Chaplain to the Senate, Chaplain David Boyles, who resides in the 22nd Senatorial District. Following a career in culinary arts, Chaplain Boyles heeded the call to serve both God and country. He graduated from Baptist Bible Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 2012 and took his oath to join the Pennsylvania Army National Guard the following year as a fully commissioned Chaplain. He was first based out of Sellersville with the 228th Brigade Support Battalion. Then, Chaplain Boyles served as the battalion Chaplain for the recruiting and retention battalion between 2017 and 2021. Chaplain Boyles now serves as the full-time training Chaplain for the Pennsylvania National Guard Chaplain Corps, and the 55th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade Chaplain. With his current brigade, Chaplain Boyles was deployed as command Chaplain to the Middle East in 2021 as part of Operation Spartan Shield in Qatar. He provided religious support through the Department of Defense and the Department of State to Afghan refugees being processed for immigration. Chaplain Boyles resides in the borough of Throop, Pennsylvania, in Lackawanna County with his wife of 22 years, Emily; and their 2 children, daughter, Amelia, and son, David, Jr. Madam President, please join me in giving Chaplain Boyles a warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

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

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, today I am proud to welcome to Harrisburg, in our beautiful Chamber here, Imani Christian Academy Boys' Basketball, PIAA State champions. Imani Christian Academy serves students K through 12, and its mission is to serve all students, especially the underserved, transforming them spiritually, academically, socially, and physically, and

launching them into lives of service and contribution. Madam President, in February of this year, the team won the WPIAL, Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League 1A championships, and just a few short weeks later on March 21, they also won the PIAA State championship at the Giant Center in Hershey. At one point in the game, Imani scored 19 straight points and eventually clinched the State title with a 79-52 victory over Berlin Brothersvalley. The impressive team has the unique distinction of winning consecutive WPIAL championships in '23 and '24, as well as consecutive PIAA State championships in '23 and '24 as well. Imani Christian is the ninth WPIAL boys' team to win consecutive PIAA titles.

Madam President, congratulations to the team, coaches, staff, and everyone who cheer these boys on. Please join me in welcoming the 2023-24 Imani Christian Academy Saints. The following are the players who participate on the team as well as coaches, Madam President: Nathan Brazil, David Compton, Kylan Holmes, Avery Wesley, Chévon Allen, Robert Sledge, Markus Williams, Deshawn Barrnet, Deshawn Gordon, Tristen Brown, Deston Hubbard, Donovan Gordon, Braylon Green, I'Zayah Bradshaw, Ross King, Cameron Rice; and they were coached by the following coaches who joined us here today as well: Coach Khayree Wilson, Coach Derek Taylor, Coach Gerald Warrick, Coach Evan Scott, Coach Anwan Wesley, Coach Clifford Simon, and Coach LaRoi Johnson. Madam President and colleagues, please join me in welcoming Imani Christian Academy, two-time PIAA State champion--and had a great opportunity to join us here in the Senate--and ask my colleagues to give a warm Senate welcome to our guests.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

[Applause.]

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

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

Senator FARRY. Madam President, I am pleased to introduce Ella McDevitt, who is a bright 9-year-old third grader at Hillcrest Elementary School in the Council Rock School District. She has a passion for politics and the inner workings of government. She recently worked on some school board races and, perhaps more importantly, wrote a petition to bring slushies back to the school cafeteria. Some of her historic figures who she studies the most are Alexander Hamilton and Anne Frank, and she aspires to become an elected official to bring positive impact to her community. She is joined by her mom, Ashley, who also grew up in Bucks County and is a graduate of Council Rock South High School; and her father, Michael Adler, who is a local business and real estate attorney who is also involved in various other civic endeavors. Please give a warm Senate welcome to Ella, Ashley, and Michael.

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

[Applause.]

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes, for a second time, the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Farry.

Senator FARRY. Madam President, we also have the Goodwin family with us who are also from Northampton: father, Chuck; mother, Patty; and daughters, Madison and Elena. They live in Churchville, Pennsylvania, which is just outside of Philadelphia in Bucks County, not far from my home. Chuck works for Comcast as a financial systems manager. Patty is a substitute within the Council Rock School District. Madison is attending Bucks County Community College, and Elena is a rising senior at Villa Joseph Marie High School in Holland. They also have a rescue dog named Lanie. Can we please give a warm Senate welcome to the Goodwin family. Thank you.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR JUDY SCHWANK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, today I have the pleasure of introducing Natalie Winter of Franklin County. Natalie is a constituent of Senator Mastriano's and is visiting the Capitol today as a raffle winner for a tour and a lunch at the Capitol. Natalie is a retired nurse with a background in patient education, obstetrics, and long-term care. I learned today that she graduated for her initial degree from the Reading Hospital School of Nursing [Health Sciences], but she then obtained her bachelor's degree in nursing from Penn State University. Natalie is also a tireless advocate for political causes and was last year's winner of the Franklin County Democratic Committee Lifetime Achievement Award. She was also instrumental in revitalizing the Women's [Democratic] Club of Franklin County. I found Natalie to be a delightful person with a lot of energy and very much enthusiasm for the things that she cares about. Please join me, colleagues, in welcoming Natalie Winter and her friend, Jennifer Sefcheck, to the Capitol today. Thank you.

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

[Applause.]

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

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

Senator ROBINSON. Madam President, I am pleased to welcome my constituent, Eric Boughner, chairman of BNY Mellon Pennsylvania and regional president for BNY Mellon Wealth Management. Also in the gallery are Michael Keslar and Andréa Stanford of BNY Mellon Pennsylvania. They are here today to celebrate the 240th anniversary of its founding by Alexander Hamilton and join us in the Senate to recognize June 9, 2024, as BNY Mellon Day in Pennsylvania. BNY Mellon has been at the center of global financial system at the forefront of financial innovation and change and is a great source of financial strength and stability in our Commonwealth. With over 50,000 employees, BNY Mellon has consistently helped clients manage, move, and safely keep their assets while providing the expertise and tools to achieve their ambitions in a changing economy. Their largest office in North America is right there in Pittsburgh, which

employs 6,000 people, many of whom are my constituents, and I am proud to have such a successful and long-standing institution right there in western Pennsylvania. My constituent, Mr. Boughner, has been very instrumental in the financial world and in the Pittsburgh community, serving as a board member of The Pittsburgh Promise, the Allegheny Conference of Community Development, Heinz History Center, and the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has also received the Enterprise Award with Distinction from Carnegie Mellon University, where he holds an MBA. Please join me in welcoming Eric, Michael, and Andréa and extend our congratulations to BNY Mellon for 240 successful years right here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

[Applause.]

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Madam President, it is a great pleasure that I rise to introduce a constituent of mine joining us today in the Capitol, Tyler Kalich. Tyler has been serving as a legislative intern in my Connellsville district office for the past two summers. He is the son of Matthew and Brandi Kalich from Uniontown and a current junior at West Virginia University, where he is studying accounting and management information services. Tyler is an honors student and serves as master of ceremonies for the Roman Catholic Churches of Southern Fayette County. Throughout his time in my district office, he has shown an excellent work ethic and has already assumed a crucial role in assisting the constituents of the 32nd Senatorial District. I am very grateful for Tyler's dedication, and I look forward to watching all of his future successes. Please join me in giving Tyler a warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

[Applause.]

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

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

Senator AUMENT. Madam President, it is my pleasure to introduce my guest for the day, Mr. Mike Rowe. Mike has played an active role in many retirement communities and healthcare settings throughout Lancaster County. He graduated from an administrator and training program in Richmond, Virginia, before earning his bachelor of science in business administration at Florida State University and a master of healthcare administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. Mike also served for 4 years in the United States Air Force as a captain in the medical service corps. For more than 30 years, he has focused on enhancing patient experiences, reducing costs, and improving staff satisfaction at communities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Florida, and Tennessee. Throughout his career, Mike has realized millions of dollars in expense savings and increased cash flow by even more.



Even more important to the long-term viability of the communities than making smart fiscal decisions is the work that he has done to substantially reduce employee turnover by cultivating staff relationships. Increased staff longevity, leading to better service for patients and enhanced trust between residents and leadership, helped him significantly increase the patient base and satisfaction. He currently serves the executive director at the Masonic Villages of Pennsylvania in Elizabethtown. In this role, he has led his team to raise the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services five-star rating up from two stars in just 2 years. Mike also achieved a \$15 million improvement in operating income through expense and revenue efficiencies for Masonic Villages. Please join me in welcoming my guest, Mike Rowe, to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR ARTHUR L. HAYWOOD AND SENATOR NIKIL SAVAL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montgomery, Senator Haywood.

Senator HAYWOOD. Madam President, it is great to see you there. I rise to welcome the students and staff of Central High School, their RoboLancers--that is their robotics team--to the Senate this afternoon. And I do this jointly with my good friend Senator Saval. The RoboLancers robotics team won the 2023 Impact Award at the FIRST Championship in Houston, Texas, in April 19-22. They have been recognized for their outstanding efforts to expand STEM opportunities in Philadelphia's public schools through a nonprofit called the Philadelphia Robotics Coalition. This coalition is student-driven by volunteers who offer team workshops; events; coached training; financial and material support. This is the dedication that has allowed them to win national recognition and induction into the FIRST Hall of Fame. Under the guidance of Coach Michael Johnson, the RoboLancers have shown an unwavering commitment to excellence, and that includes support of over 143 robotics teams across the city of Philadelphia. We had a tremendous conversation with the young people earlier today, and they showed ingenuity, awareness, and commitment. I would also like to say, I am so glad to jointly host these young men and women with Senator Saval. In the past, I have witnessed amazing high school robotics teams and their ability to do what is truly amazing. And so, Madam President, I would now like to turn it over to Senator Saval for his remarks as we welcome these exceptional young people and their coaches.

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

Senator SAVAL. Madam President, it is an honor to stand here with my colleague and friend from Montgomery County, Senator Haywood, to welcome the championship robotics team, the RoboLancers from Central High School. Just very briefly, they have won awards 2 years in a row for their outreach work last year to spread STEM opportunity to Philadelphia public school students. They are recognizing their work to spread STEM opportunity through the Philadelphia Robotics Coalition, and then, of course, the national championship most recently, where they were part of 1 of 3,500 teams that participated; 1 of 600 teams to

qualify; and, of course, the team that won. You know, one thing that is exceptional about the way that this team won is on the one hand, they were coaching, you know, teams at 100 schools across Philadelphia--one of the largest sort of STEM opportunity activities in the city of Philadelphia vis-a-vis our school district--and also the strategy for winning that Senator Haywood and I learned about when we spoke with the students earlier was that they were the team that pioneered in the challenge that they were set up to compete in, the only team to do defense, and to play defense, and to win by playing defense. And that was their innovation in their, you know, the way that they were able to overcome the challenges from so many other teams from Silicon Valley and the like that may have had other kinds of resources and opportunities available to them. They innovated and changed the game. One of the alumnus who was a mentor to the RoboLancers, Armond Smith, said that there is no world where we can win by playing everyone else's game, and when you cannot play their game and win, you change the game. So, it is just an honor to have the RoboLancers here who truly have changed the game, not just, you know, for themselves, but for many, many teams across Philadelphia, and I look forward to further success and hope all our colleagues will join us in extending them a very warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUESTS OF SENATOR TRACY PENNYCUICK PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator PENNYCUICK. Madam President, it is my great honor to introduce Barbara and Robert Repsher, who won a trip to Harrisburg in a raffle at one of my community events. And though they are constituents of Senator Coleman's district, we are so glad to have them with us today. They also had an opportunity to have lunch with Ambassador Lee, which I do not think they were expecting, but they enjoyed it just as well. So, if we could welcome them to the Senate, I would greatly appreciate it, Madam President.

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

[Applause.]

### **GUEST OF SENATOR AMANDA M. CAPPELLETTI PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Madam President, today I rise to welcome Dr. Arunjot Singh to the Pennsylvania Senate. Dr. Singh's passion for medicine and healthcare equality led him to pursue a master's in public health in addition to his medical degree. He strongly believes in treating a patient as a whole, not just the disease. This involves being very detail-oriented and patient, meticulously considering the patient's circumstances and surroundings and communicating effectively with that family. Dr.

Singh treats numerous diseases that affect the digestive tract, including inflammatory bowel disease, eosinophilic esophagitis--I am really sorry if I messed that one up--and failure to thrive, with a special focus on celiac disease, which I think many of my colleagues know my passion for addressing that issue. He is also involved in numerous research initiatives aimed at furthering our understanding of celiac disease and developing new therapies for his patients. In recognition of Dr. Singh's accomplished work, he has received various awards, including a 2017 Oberfield Research Award in Translational Science by the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center, and a 2016 Research Poster of Distinction Award by the World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology.

Today, Dr. Singh is in Harrisburg to support two bills that I have introduced in the Senate, Senate Bill No. 1167 and Senate Bill No. 1166, legislation that will require the proper labeling of food and medicine that contains gluten to ease the burdens that Pennsylvanians with celiac disease and gluten intolerances face when navigating grocery stores and medical conditions. Currently, Dr. Singh is a member of both national and international professional organizations, including the North American Society for the Study of Celiac Disease and the American Gastroenterology Association. Having support from experts like Dr. Singh proves the crucial need for this legislation, and I hope that we will all work together to move bills forward because we know that clear labeling makes the difference when it comes to the health of our loved ones. I am proud to represent such an accomplished healthcare professional who is genuinely committed to serving the health and wellness of not only his patients, but the entire community. Please join me in giving Dr. Singh a warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

#### **GUEST OF SENATOR LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

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

Senator L. WILLIAMS. Madam President, I rise to introduce my guest today, Mr. Jim Newell. Mr. Newell was unanimously elected as Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney's new CEO by the firm's voting shareholders in January. After working alongside outgoing Chairman and CEO Joe Dougherty for a 5-month transition period, Mr. Newell officially began his 3-year term as CEO last month. Mr. Newell has a history of innovation and problem-solving in his time at Buchanan. He has led the firm through a transition to industry-driven approach, which has improved client services and helped build relationships by encouraging attorneys to cross sections and practice groups. He has also been a leader in implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion; corporate social responsibility; and technological innovation program at the firm during his 36-year tenure. Mr. Newell also gives back to the community through his service on the board of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania and as a charter member of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project. Both the United Way and the Innocence Project focus their efforts on providing resources, assistance, and legal help to those who need it most. His service is a

fine reminder to other members of BIR and the legal community that it is our responsibility and duty to give back using our legal training and expertise. I would like to congratulate Mr. Newell on beginning his 3-year term as CEO at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney. I look forward to seeing him continue his incredible work and the tradition of excellence that we have all grown to expect from the firm and its members. Please join me in giving Mr. Jim Newell our traditional warm Senate welcome.

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

[Applause.]

#### **RECESS**

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

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

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

Senator FONTANA. Madam President, the Democrats will caucus immediately in the rear of the Chamber.

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

#### **AFTER RECESS**

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

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

#### **REQUEST FOR RECESS**

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, may we be at ease, please?

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I would just ask your indulgence to proceed with the Calendar.

#### **CALENDAR**

##### **THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR**

##### **BILLS OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 67** and **SB 194** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

##### **BILL LAID ON THE TABLE**

**SB 365 (Pr. No. 975)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 2, 1915 (P.L.736, No.338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act, in interpretation and definitions,

further providing for definitions; and, in liability and compensation, providing for compensation for post-traumatic stress injury.

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

**SB 365 TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that Senate Bill No. 365, Printer's No. 975, be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

**BILL OVER IN ORDER TEMPORARILY**

**SB 375** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order temporarily at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 645** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

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

**SB 667 (Pr. No. 1279)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1988 (P.L.1262, No.156), known as the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act, in games of chance, providing for payment; and abrogating a regulation.

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

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

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVES**

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

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

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

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

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

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Hughes.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

**BILL REREFERRED**

**SB 688 (Pr. No. 710)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 12, 1951 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the Liquor Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in Pennsylvania Liquor Stores, further providing for sales by Pennsylvania Liquor Stores; and, in licenses and regulations, liquor, alcohol and malt and brewed beverages, further providing for heading of article, for authority to issue liquor licenses to hotels, restaurants and clubs, for sales by liquor licensees and restrictions, for secondary service area, for sale of malt or brewed beverages by liquor licensees, for public service liquor licenses, for liquor importers' licenses, fees, privileges and restrictions, for public venue license, for performing arts facility license, for continuing care retirement community retail licenses, for casino liquor license, for malt and brewed beverages manufacturers', distributors' and importing distributors' licenses, for sales by manufacturers of malt or brewed beverages and minimum quantities and for distributors' and importing distributors' restrictions on sales, storage, etc; adding provisions relating to fees and taxation of ready-to-drink cocktails for off-premises consumption; and further providing for unlawful acts relative to malt or brewed beverages and licensees.

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

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 742 (Pr. No. 1671)** -- 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 bank and trust company shares tax, further providing for ascertainment of taxable amount and exclusion of United States obligations; and providing for ascertainment of taxable amount and construction.

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

**YEA-37**

Argall	DiSanto	Martin	Santarsiero
Aument	Dush	Mastriano	Schwank
Baker	Farry	Miller	Stefano
Bartolotta	Fontana	Pennycuick	Street
Brewster	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Vogel
Brooks	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Judy
Brown	Hutchinson	Regan	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Langerholc	Robinson	Williams, Anthony H.
Costa	Laughlin	Rothman	Yaw
Culver			

**NAY-13**

Boscola	Dillon	Kane	Saval
Cappelletti	Flynn	Kearney	Tartaglione
Collett	Hughes	Muth	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta			

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.

**LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED**

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

**CONSIDERATION OF CALENDAR RESUMED**

**THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR RESUMED**

**BILL OVER IN ORDER**

**SB 795** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**SB 1051 (Pr. No. 1346)** -- 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 procedure and administration, further providing for review by board and providing for settlement conference process.

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-29**

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

**NAY-21**

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

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 1084, SB 1087** and **HB 1097** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

**BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE**

**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 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 Franklin, Senator Mastriano.

Senator MASTRIANO. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 1149. On February 3 of 2023 at 8:54 p.m., disaster struck the Ohio/Pennsylvania border in East Palestine, Ohio, when 38 cars from the Norfolk Southern Railway derailed. On February 6, officials decided to release and burn several of the cars, up to eight of the cars, resulting in a massive plume and uncontrolled burn containing hydrogen chloride, as well as many other toxins, that produced the toxic gas phosgene into the atmosphere, a World War I toxin used to kill troops during the trench warfare of the First World War. The residents in the area in both Pennsylvania and Ohio took the brunt of the effect of these calamities. Those within a mile had a chemical fallout ooze on the ground, which I saw in person just a few weeks after the burn. As we have heard in the four hearings we have had from the victims and witnesses, their land, air, water, pets, businesses, and most importantly, their health have all suffered. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of those who lost so much.

Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw promised under subpoena before our committee, the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness, to make it right. In the wake of the recent \$600 million settlement reached by Norfolk Southern, Senator Elder Vogel, Senator Michele Brooks, and myself came together and introduced Senate Bill No. 1149 to help those who suffered as a result of this catastrophe. The bill amends the Tax Reform Code by making it clear that payments received from the Federal/State governments--or from Norfolk Southern or any other agent thereof--any of the monies would not be subject to the personal income tax. Ohio already has established this deduction for the residents who receive payments, and I believe it is time for Pennsylvania to do the same. We have heard from many of the dear people during our hearings out west about this and that this is the least we can do to help them in the midst of this tragedy.

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

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

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

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

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise in support of the legislation before us right now, and I just want to take a moment to say thank you to the Members who put this together and recognize their efforts. But I will be remiss if I did not talk a little bit about the collective effort that took place with respect to some of our State agencies that participated, certainly working with Senator Mastriano. Our colleague, Senator Muth, was engaged in those conversations at the time this occurred, and I want to say thank you to those Members for the work that was done. I would be remiss if I did not recognize, however, also the work of our Governor, Josh Shapiro, who helped manage and negotiate and, quite frankly, hold the feet to the fire of the folks involved and responsible for this disaster that occurred, as was described by my colleague moments ago. So, I think it is an important thing that we do to recognize the savings that the folks will be achieving through this process. And I just want to say thank you to all those involved, in particular the Governor, for helping to negotiate and make certain that we had a significant amount of money to be able to pay back to these individuals who had their lives turned upside down during that period of time.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,  
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-50

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

**SB 1165** -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION  
AND FINAL PASSAGE

**SB 1173 (Pr. No. 1672)** -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, 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.

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 Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I rise today and ask for support on final passage of Senate Bill No. 1173. Senate Bill No. 1173 seeks to protect consumers from predatory home buying and selling practices by regulating a practice known as wholesaling, where someone offers to buy a property--generally targeting vulnerable and financially distressed homeowners--but instead of a traditional home sale, is buying the opportunity to resell the property by signing or flipping the contract to an investor at a higher price. By using this process, the wholesaler stands to make a windfall without the buyer or seller knowing it happened until settlement. At that point, neither the buyer nor the seller have the protections granted under a traditional home sale. This legislation does not ban the practice of wholesaling, but it does regulate the process, requires a wholesaler to be licensed, and gives them the

time to get that license. It also requires the interested parties to sign statements acknowledging that it is a wholesale transaction, and because of that, they have certain rights to obtain an appraisal, cancel the contract, and receive a refund for the canceled contract. Please join me in protecting vulnerable consumers from unknowingly selling their biggest investment without rules or fully understanding what is happening.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator ROTHMAN. Mr. President, 35 years ago this month I got my real estate license, and for much of that time I have been involved in helping people sell their homes or buy their homes, and we consider it the American dream. The bill that we are considering now is not that. It is the practices--many people receive postcards: I will buy your house, cash; cash for your house letters. What then happens is the property owner enters into an agreement with the wholesaler, who then puts the property on the market, never takes title, and then sells it at a large, large, profit. We have seen hundreds of thousands of dollars in the difference. And receives a benefit, receives some kind of payment for helping to bring two parties together who are unrelated. And that is practicing real estate in Pennsylvania, and you need a real estate license for that. And then you need a fiduciary responsibility to your client, and you need to disclose market value. It is actually unethical for a real estate agent in Pennsylvania to sell a property for considerably less than what it is worth. It is unethical for a real estate agent to have a buyer they are representing pay considerably more than what they believe it is worth. There is lots of consumer protection, and this practice of wholesaling where nobody takes title, they simply transfer their interest to a third party and make large sums of money, is not the free market, it is not speculation, it is not the practice of real estate owner laws, and I commend the chair. This is a consumer protection law, and we should be protecting our homeowners, especially our older, vulnerable citizens who may not be aware that the price of their properties has increased considerably. So, thank you for this. I urge my colleagues to support this. This is great consumer protection and an important piece of legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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-49

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

NAY-1

Coleman

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**HB 1246, HB 1477 and HB 1760** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

**SB 219, SB 501, SB 525, SB 577, HB 775, SB 800, SB 841, SB 1026, SB 1108 and HB 1567** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

RECESS

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a recess of the Senate for the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development to be held immediately in the Rules room. For the information of the Members, I expect no further votes for the remainder of today. So, I would ask the Members of that committee to report immediately to the Rules room.

The PRESIDENT. For the purpose of a meeting of the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development to be held off the floor in the Rules room immediately, without objection, the Senate stands in recess.

AFTER RECESS

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
BILL REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE

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

**SB 806 (Pr. No. 946)**

An Act amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to video gaming, further providing for definitions; and, in operation, further providing for video gaming limitations and for compulsive and problem gambling.

**BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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

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

**SB 186, SB 187, SB 806, SB 840, SB 1000, SB 1138, SB 1183, SB 1203, SB 1213, SB 1229, SB 1231, SB 1236, HB 1853 and HB 1889.**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY**

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 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)
10:00 A.M.	TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 1147; Senate Resolution No. 258; and House Bills No. 134 and 2055)	Room 461 Main Capitol
10:30 A.M.	FINANCE (to consider Senate Bill No. 858; and House Bill No. 1745)	Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 464 and 688)	Rules Committee Conference Room
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations)	Rules Committee Conference Room

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

10:00 A.M.	BANKING AND INSURANCE (to consider House Bill No. 2096)	Room 461 Main Capitol
------------	---------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------

**PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Berks, Senator Schwank.

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, I am honored today to bring to the Senate and to our community in the Commonwealth to let them know that today is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. International Holocaust Remembrance Day and Yom HaShoah are essential to honoring the memory of all people in Jewish life killed and forever scarred by the Holocaust. Holocaust Survivor Day is about celebrating the survivors and everything they continue to teach us.

In my own community of Reading, there are a number of survivors of the Holocaust who are still living and telling their stories, and I think sometimes it is forgotten, the harrowing experiences that these survivors had. One individual in my community

recently told her story of--she was born in France, and they were moving from place to place to try to escape the persecution that they experienced. Ultimately, her mother placed her in a Catholic orphanage, where she was raised while her mother had to find another place to be able to survive the experience. There are many other stories that others tell us, and once these folks were--if those that could or were able to survive, they often ended up in displaced person camps with no places to go. Many who tried to return to their homes were not welcome. Their homes may have been taken over by people in their native country or they simply experienced continued antisemitism.

And fortunately, there were opportunities for Holocaust survivors not only to immigrate to the United States, but to the State of Israel and to countries actually all over the world. These individuals, once they came to, for example, the United States, did everything they could to rebuild their lives and oftentimes did not talk about their experience. For me, as a second-generation American, I would only note that for some of the Holocaust survivors who I knew of--none in my family, fortunately, but who I knew--the only way you knew that they were a survivor is to see the numbers tattooed on their arms. They did not speak about these experiences. They went on to raise families, build businesses, try to rebuild their lives in the United States and in other countries as well.

But recently, probably within the last 30 years, many of our Holocaust survivors have begun speaking, going to schools and universities and civic clubs to talk about their experience, to help people to understand the horrors of the Holocaust and what they faced. And now we know many of these survivors are now in their 80s at the earliest, in their 90s, or some even 100 years of age, and they are rapidly passing from our communities, unfortunately. Our efforts in recognizing Holocaust Survivor Day is to remember what they have done, what they have experienced, and to assure that these folks continue to live their lives in dignity. Many of them are facing poverty because of the places that they are living in. In fact, in the Ukraine, there are Holocaust survivors there who have lived in extreme poverty, and many other countries as well. Fortunately, in the United States, due to reparations and other efforts by Jewish federations and foundations, they have been able to live lives as older Americans and be secure as they age. So, today, again, we recall Holocaust Survivor Day, and we call on people everywhere to celebrate survivors' lives, thank them for their contributions and their lessons, and respond to help survivors wherever they are today.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the gentlewoman from Berks County for her very meaningful remarks here today. May we always remember and never forget.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, I rise because today marks 6,540 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. Our neighbors are crying out for help, Madam President. Tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians from every corner of this Commonwealth need our help. For nearly 18 years, 18 years, Madam President, our minimum-wage and low-wage earners have faced a laissez-faire attitude towards their very existence, and what has that gotten them? It has gotten them left behind, stuck in a cycle of poverty, struggling to

make ends meet. Low wages, like what we force our minimum-wage earners to subsist on, contribute to economic inequality, drive further resentment and disillusionment with our society. Study after study have shown, when people are unable to meet their basic needs, despite working full-time, it breeds frustration, hopelessness, and discontent. Raising the minimum wage to a living wage is an immediate step towards making sure every Pennsylvanian feels their worth and their value. It signals to all Pennsylvanians that we, as a legislature, see them, and we understand their hard work deserves adequate compensation. It signals that we understand making sure our neighbors and constituents are able to keep a roof over their head and food on their table by working a full-time job.

If we can ensure Pennsylvanians earn a livable wage, we will in turn reduce the desperation that so many minimum-wage and low-wage earners feel. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 1186, because I see the value in every Pennsylvanian. I understand that workers must be treated with fairness and respect. And I know that when we talk about changes in the lives of tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians, we are not just talking about statistics, we are talking about the lives of people in our communities who we can make better just by valuing their work at a livable wage. Pennsylvania needs a living wage, Madam President. Pennsylvania needs Senate Bill No. 1186.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator CAPPELLETTI. Madam President, today I rise to speak on Senate Resolution No. 299, which recognized the month of May as Celiac Disease Awareness Month [Celiac Awareness Month]. Celiac disease is a serious autoimmune disease where the ingestion of gluten leads to damage of the small intestine. It is estimated that celiac affects 1 in 100 people worldwide or another 2.5 million people are undiagnosed, which puts them at risk for long-term health complications, including the increased likelihood of developing other autoimmune diseases. Individuals who live with celiac disease must adhere to a strict gluten-free diet and avoid foods such as bread and beer that may contain wheat, rye, and barley. As many of you have heard me say, a dear friend of mine lives with celiac disease, and I see firsthand every time I visit her the impacts of making sure that there is no cross-contamination and what happens to her when she accidentally does ingest gluten. The only treatment for this disease is a gluten-free diet, leading to things like avoiding sharing knives when you spread cream cheese on different style bagels and using separate toasters to toast them, even ensuring if you have touched gluten bread and you go to touch non-gluten bread, washing your hands in between those two interactions because one wrong move, one unknown misstep, and someone's health is thrown off for days.

Celiac disease has such a widespread impact on our population, and yet many who live with this disease have difficulty finding foods that they can eat. In the past, I have had the honor of welcoming a young advocate from my district here in Harrisburg, Mr. Jax Bari, a 10-year-old with celiac disease. He has been advocating for an increase in Federal and State funding for celiac disease research and requiring that gluten be labeled on all food packaging, just as it is in 62 other countries. His advocacy became a reality with the introduction of the Food Labeling Modernization Act of 2021. Many more in America and all across the

world do not know that they are suffering from this disease. And while we still have a long way to go, it is important that we acknowledge that this is a widespread public health issue that impacts many. Earlier today, I joined State Representative Mary Jo Daley for a press conference to introduce our companion legislation to update food labeling guidelines in an effort to empower people with the information they need to make the right food and medicine choices to protect their health and wellness. If you have not already, I encourage you to sign on in support of Senate Bill No. 1166 and Senate Bill No. 1167 and to join me in making a difference for all Pennsylvanians who are suffering with celiac disease and other gluten intolerances, and also, thank you for joining me in recognizing May as Celiac Disease Awareness Month.

Thank you, Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Madam President, I rise to address a bill that we voted on earlier today and thank my colleagues for their support and talk a little bit about that bill. Senate Bill No. 1051 is a taxpayer protection proposal. Pure and simple, that is what it is. Sometimes we found that the State's tax collection agency gets a little bit overzealous in how it interprets the applicable law. Senate Bill No. 1051, on the other hand, gives taxpayers a little more time and some options when they are responding to assessments by the Department of Revenue. I think many of my colleagues here and across the building in the legislature over the years have heard from constituents who get caught up in that very complicated appeal process, and Senate Bill No. 1051 would make some changes to make it a more taxpayer-friendly environment. Two things the bill does: number one, the legislation amends the Tax Reform Code by improving the Pennsylvania Board of Finance & Revenue appeal process, allowing for late-file tax appeals from the Department of Revenue as long as there is just cause. So, that is the number one thing it does. Number two, the bill creates a taxpayer-friendly negotiated appeal settlement process. The board or either party may request this settlement process, which would then pause the board's consideration of the appeal while all the parties involved can focus their efforts on reaching a settled resolution. Agreement to any resolution at the end would be voluntary, and it would add no additional cost to be imposed on the taxpayer themselves.

So, overall, Senate Bill No. 1051 allows for a quicker and fairer resolution to tax disputes, and that is particularly helpful for the smaller businesses who really do not have the resources or the time to work through a very drawn-out appeals process, nor do they have the resources to go through a lengthy and expensive court process. So, in addition, this bill benefits the Commonwealth by resolving tax issues sooner, thereby allowing tax liabilities to be collected much more quickly. I think it is a win-win for all parties. It makes a complicated system much clearer and simpler and taxpayer friendly. I thank my colleagues for helping advance this idea, and I hope we are able to continue to get this bill moving through the process. So, I thank my fellow Members.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, over the course of the past 17 months, our colleagues in the House of Representatives have sent us a significant number of bills over here to the Senate. In



fact, they sent an excess of 263 individual measures, most of which were conducted and voted on in a bipartisan way, as indicated, had been moved here to the Senate. They worked hard to deliver what I believe to be, and I think my colleagues in our Caucus believe to be, good, solid bills that represent interests of our Pennsylvanians and improve the lives of Pennsylvanians in many, many different ways. And there are certainly ones, in addition, that are supported by our public at large.

Mr. [Madam] President, today I want to bring attention to five bills that, as I mentioned, the House has sent over to the Senate here, that have not seen any movement at all in this Chamber. Madam President, I think you agree, and all of us agree here, that we have a responsibility in this Chamber to address measures that come from the House. We have an obligation to move the ball forward on these measures and the ones that are mostly important to many of our residents across the Commonwealth.

Madam President, at the very least, at the very least, we should be conducting hearings and having debate. Whether the debate takes place in the committee room or whether the debate takes place on this floor when we are considering these measures, debate and votes are really important. Probably some of the most significant ones that I want to draw attention to today and that our colleagues in the House are speaking about as well, relate to, for example, one would be House Bill No. 300, known as the Fairness Act, introduced by our colleague, Representative Malcolm Kenyatta. Madam President, this bill has been stalled in the Senate for 387 days, more than 1 year. The bill would offer protections to the LGBTQ+ people in housing and employment.

A second measure, Madam President, House Bill No. 78, Representative Arvind Venkat, a doctor, emergency room physician, who addressed the issue of medical debt relief. This piece of legislation has been stalled for more than 342 days here in the Senate. Certainly, as it relates to relief from individuals who are dealing with medical debt, this is an important measure to them. House Bill No. 106, the Patient Safety Act, to ensure that our nurses can deliver the best care to their patients, has been stalled in the Senate for more than 343 days. Certainly, we want to make certain that we have the appropriate nursing-to-patient ratios active in Pennsylvania and something that is a very important matter as well.

House Bill No. 412 [sic], the bill would address worker misclassification and stop wage theft, have been stalled here in the Senate for 391 days. Again, a month more than a year. These are measures that are really important to the working people across Pennsylvania. We have seen some of the nefarious actions of developers and construction employers over the years, we need to make certain that we stop those type of things. House Bill No. 1394, known as the CROWN Act, legislation to ban hair discrimination sponsored by my colleague from Allegheny County, Representative Mayes, also has been a big part of the legislation effort by our Speaker McClinton in the House. This measure has been stalled for 336 days. Just today, I had the opportunity to meet with her and some of the other advocates, including a judge from our county, Allegheny County, Judge Kimberly Clark [Berkeley Clark], to hear about what the enormous impact this legislation would mean in making the lives of our Black and brown Pennsylvanians of all ages.

Madam President, these 5 measures I just talked about are a small sampling of the 260-plus bills that have not even had a

chance to be discussed in this Chamber, either in committee or on the floor. As I mentioned, at the very least, these are popular measures that our Commonwealth residents want us to address. Our constituents and the people of Pennsylvania deserve to know where we stand, where this Chamber stands on these issues and our plans to improve their lives in crucial areas of discrimination, healthcare, and jobs. I, again, urge my colleagues here in the Majority party to give the people of Pennsylvania an opportunity to hear our positions on these various measures and allow them to be able to move forward and engage in a conversation and debate as we move forward. We know we only have 1 week of Session left in this month and then we have a break and then we are back here for 2 or 3 more weeks. It is imperative that as we go through this process over the course of the next several weeks, that we take the time to be able to have these conversations about these five measures as well as the numerous other bills that I have talked about on this Senate floor for the past several weeks. These are things that people want us to talk about. They are measures that passed, as I mentioned, in the House in a bipartisan way in most instances, and it is important to have this dialogue so the people of Pennsylvania know that we take interest in the things that are important to them.

Thank you, Madam President.

## HOUSE MESSAGE

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

The Clerk of the House of Representatives informed the Senate that the House has concurred in amendments made by the Senate to House amendments to **SB 497**.

## GENERAL COMMUNICATION

### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

June 4, 2024

TO: President and All Members of the Senate  
FROM: Senator KIM WARD  
President Pro Tempore  
RE: Standing Committee Membership Change  
Tuesday, June 4, 2024

Pursuant to Rule 5 of the Rules of the Senate, I hereby make the following standing committee changes for the remainder of the 2023-24 legislative session:

Remove Senator Ryan Aument from the Appropriations Committee.  
Appoint Senator Jarrett Coleman to the Appropriations Committee.

## 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 497, SB 1018 and HB 660.**

**RECESS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Venango, Senator Hutchinson.

Senator HUTCHINSON. Madam President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 11 a.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 5:03 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.