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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 22

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2024

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

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend MICHAEL HOPKINS, of New Freedom Baptist Church, New Freedom, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our dear gracious heavenly Father, we do thank You for this day. Lord, we thank You for another opportunity to serve and meet the needs of the people of Pennsylvania. Lord, we do want to pause for a moment and thank You for all those who have served our country and made it possible to enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy each and every day, such as this one. Lord, we thank You, Father, for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in laying down their lives for us that we might be able to enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom. Dear Father, I pray today that the cry of our heart would be that of Your great servant Moses, who, when You used him to bring the children of Israel up out of Egypt, he cried to You and said, if your presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. Lord, may we seek Your presence today. Lord, Your Word has told us where there are two or three gathered together in Your Name, that You will be with us. So, Lord, may we follow the biblical directive of trusting in You with all our heart and leaning not to our own understanding, in all our ways may we acknowledge You and You promise then to direct our paths.

Lord, I pray today that You would help us to look past party views as we seek to be a blessing and help to the people of Pennsylvania and do what is in their best interests. Lord, may our heart's attitude be that of President Abraham Lincoln when he was asked: is God on our side? And President Lincoln replied: the question is not whether God is on our side, but the question is whether we are on God's side. Lord, I pray that You would help us, Father, to by thy grace, to do all that would honor and glorify You. Lord, we pray for Your watchcare over this Chamber today, over each and every one who is here. And Lord, we pray You bless them as they move forward with the business of Pennsylvania. And Lord, we give You all the honor and glory, for truly Thou art worthy. We pray these things in the precious Name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

The PRESIDENT. The Chair thanks Pastor Hopkins, who is the guest today of Senator Phillips-Hill.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEES

Senator STEFANO, from the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, reported the following bills:

SB 1250 (Pr. No. 1705)

An Act amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rates and distribution systems, providing for ratepayer relief reports.

SB 1251 (Pr. No. 1706)

An Act amending the act of May 22, 1951 (P.L.317, No.69), known as The Professional Nursing Law, further providing for fees and qualifications for licensure, for education programs, approved lists, distribution and student credits where school removed from list and for certified registered nurse practitioners and qualifications.

HB 109 (Pr. No. 2140)

An Act prohibiting fees for early termination of certain contracts upon death; providing for waiver of applicable fees; and imposing civil penalties.

HB 327 (Pr. No. 2082)

An Act amending the act of June 19, 1931 (P.L.589, No.202), referred to as the Barbers' License Law, further providing for licensure of manager-barbers and barber-teachers.

HB 1490 (Pr. No. 3312) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of February 14, 1986 (P.L.2, No.2), known as the Acupuncture Licensure Act, further providing for definitions, for regulation of the practice of acupuncture, for penalties and for approval of acupuncture educational programs.

HB 1818 (Pr. No. 2254)

An Act amending the act of December 20, 1982 (P.L.1404, No.325), known as the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, further providing for advertisement of sale.

Senator ARGALL, from the Committee on Education, reported the following bills:

SB 913 (Pr. No. 1727) (Amended)

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

SB 971 (Pr. No. 1728) (Amended)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in student supports, providing for parental and employee notification of weapon incidents.

SB 1171 (Pr. No. 1545)

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

SB 1175 (Pr. No. 1548)

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

SB 1252 (Pr. No. 1699)

An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, further providing for definitions and for building condition assessments.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

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

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Yaw, and legislative leaves for Senator Brown, Senator Farry, and Senator Robinson.

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

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Muth, and legislative leaves for Senator Haywood, Senator Saval, and Senator Anthony Williams.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Yaw, and legislative leaves for Senator Brown, Senator Farry, and Senator Robinson.

Senator Costa requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Muth, and legislative leaves for Senator Haywood, Senator Saval, and Senator Anthony Williams.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator PITTMAN asked and obtained leaves of absence for Senator PENNYCUICK and Senator GEBHARD, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNAL APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journal of the Session of April 29, 2024, is now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the Session of April 29, 2024.

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

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The Journal is approved.

GUESTS OF SENATOR KRISTIN PHILLIPS-HILL PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce our guest Chaplain, Pastor Michael Hopkins from New Freedom Baptist Church. A Southern York County native, Pastor Hopkins graduated from Bob Jones University in South Carolina, where he received an associate degree in ministerial training. Ordained in 1995, Pastor Hopkins continued his education and received a bachelor's degree in Bible from the Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, in 2003. Throughout the years, Pastor Hopkins has taught at Christian schools, was an administrator for 16 years, and pastored churches in Delaware before coming home and settling at New Freedom Baptist Church in 2017. Leading several ministries, New Freedom Baptist Church provides opportunities to serve the Lord as its congregants minister to others. Their ministries aim to evangelize, disciple, and enlighten those in the church and the community. Seated on the floor with Pastor Hopkins is his lovely wife of 33 years, Shelly Hopkins. Thank you, Pastor Hopkins, for blessing the Senate with your meaningful prayer today. Would my colleagues please join me in welcoming today's guest Chaplain, Pastor Michael Hopkins, and his wife, Shelly, to the Senate of Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Phillips-Hill please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

GUEST OF SENATOR MARIA COLLETT PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to welcome a rising 7th grader from Lower Gwynedd Township in the 12th Senatorial District. He is an active member of his middle school cross-country team, an avid golfer, a first degree black belt in karate, and coincidentally, my son, August Collett. It is always

an exciting day when I can convince August to join me at the State Capitol. It is no stretch to say he is not easily impressed, least of all by his own State Senator. Nevertheless, I am proud to have the opportunity to share with him the work we do here in the General Assembly to improve the lives of our constituents before he heads off to Senator Baker's district to spend his summer at Lake Owego Camp in Pike County. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending our usual warm Senate welcome.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR SCOTT F. MARTIN PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an incredible athlete from my alma mater, Lancaster Catholic High School, who is seated in the gallery with her family today. Margaret Bila earned the gold in the discus competition in this year's AA PIAA Track and Field Championship. Amazingly, this was only Margaret's second season competing in track and field, and she had no background competing in the discus prior to last year when she started her season running hurdles. Talk about an inherently gifted but determined athlete.

After last year's amazing sixth-place finish at the PIAA's, she came back and not only won, but hit a new personal record on each of her three consecutive attempts, ultimately becoming a State champion with a 140'-6" throw. Margaret's speed in which she rose through the ranks is simply astonishing, and she has without a doubt made not only this alum proud, but the entire Lancaster Catholic and Lancaster County community. I have no doubt that she will continue to set records and defy expectations as she moves forward in life. I cannot wait to see what Margaret does her senior year next year and where her journey takes her. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Margaret Bila and her family to the Pennsylvania Senate.

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

[Applause.]

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Martin, for a second time.

Senator MARTIN. Mr. President, and ironically, to have two State champions who do the same event from AA and AAA at schools that are only a couple of miles apart is astonishing. And I rise today to recognize a remarkable athlete who joins us from J.P. McCaskey High School who is seated in the gallery today with her family. Genesis Castro finished first and earned the gold in the Class AAA discus competition at the PIAA Track and Field Championships only a few weeks ago. Genesis was the second Lancaster-Lebanon League representative to win the gold at the PIAA's. After not only breaking a McCaskey school record earlier in the season at the Cy Fritz Open held at Millersville University with a personal-record throw of 139'-2," she ultimately took on tough opponents from across the State at the PIAA's and won the Class AAA gold.

Prior to these historic victories, Genesis started her season throwing in the 80'-90' range. I mention this not only to recognize

the hard work and dedication she put into her sport and the fruits of her labor that came from it, but as a call to all our young athletes to never give up. She is an example to so many of the success that can come when you face adversity head-on and continue to work hard to perform your craft. Genesis has proved herself to be someone who continues to persevere, grow, and improve with each passing day. Those skills will lead to so many future successes, and I am excited to see how she will improve next year, her senior year, when she competes. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in giving our customary warm Senate welcome to Genesis Castro and her family.

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

[Applause.]

GUESTS OF SENATOR LISA M. BOSCOLA PRESENTED TO THE SENATE

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

Senator BOSCOLA. Mr. President, when my district office interns travel to Harrisburg, it is probably one of my favorite times of year. And, for me, it is very special. I have six interns working in my district offices. Four of them were able to make it down today, and I really appreciate that they did because I called them at like 3:30 last night. The rule came down that they could not come in and be introduced in the end of June. So, I quickly called them and four of them were able to make it down.

So first, I would like to recognize Helen Hrazanek. Helen will be entering her third year at Catholic University of America, where she is majoring in political science with a minor in sociology. Attending college in our nation's capital has already given Helen the opportunity to be a legislative intern in the House of Representatives, where she worked for Congresswoman Diana DeGette who represents Colorado's First Congressional District. Helen's plan is to stay in D.C. after graduation with the goal of working in the Capitol.

Second, I am very pleased to introduce Lila Mangino, who will be entering her final year at the University of Notre Dame. Lila is majoring in sociology and Spanish with a minor in constitutional studies. Lila has previously done her summer internships in a prosecutor's office and a law firm and chose to intern in my office to gain a new perspective on the law. She plans to take these experiences with her to law school in the fall of 2025, after she graduates from Notre Dame.

Next, please welcome to the Senate Shannon McIntyre, who is also entering her final year of study at the University of Tampa, where she is majoring in advertising and public relations. After graduating next May, Shannon's goal is to work as a public relations specialist, managing company crises by monitoring and ensuring positive media coverage through brand management. This would include handling media relations, conducting market research, and tracking analytics for the company.

My final intern in the gallery today is Julianne Rosko. Jules has received her B.A. in political science from High Point University in 2023, and this fall will be completing her M.A. in communication and business leadership. This is Jules' third summer serving in my district office--so I guess she must like it--in a previous summer, she presented--believe this or not--her own policy version about charging a fee for electric vehicles to help fund the

repairing of Pennsylvania roads. And this was an issue that this body addressed last June when we passed Senate Bill No. 695 [sic] to place alternative fuel tax on electric vehicles.

And, additionally, I have two interns who were unable to make this trip today to the Capitol. Anthony DeAngelo; he is a two-time intern who has already earned a bachelor of arts degree last month. He received a political science degree from Rutgers University, where he also minored in music technology.

And my final intern who could not make it down today, unfortunately, is Ethan Christman, who just completed his third year at Harvard College with majors in German and international studies. Ethan is spending his second summer as an intern and did get introduced here last June. Ethan's post-college plans are law school and securing a master's degree in political science. So, he is kind of following my roadmap. Maybe he will be a Senator one day. His professional goal is to become a lawyer, but that does not preclude you from becoming a State Senator. So, I proudly wish that all of you would give them their usual warm welcome.

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

[Applause.]

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILL OVER IN ORDER

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

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 186 (Pr. No. 1678) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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."

Considered the third time and agreed to,

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

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Blair, Senator Judy Ward.

Senator J. WARD. Mr. President, with the consideration of Senate Bill No. 186 and Senate Bill No. 187 today, we take a meaningful step forward in the protection of our youth and the prevention of sexual exploitation of children. These bills amend Title 18 of Pennsylvania's Consolidated Statutes and Act 197 of 2004, the Child Internet Protection Act, by replacing the term "child pornography" with the phrase "child sexual abuse material." These two bills were a result of the bipartisan Child Pornography Task Force, which reviewed the statutes and practices in other States along with policies and procedures that help

authorities recognize and prosecute child pornography. This change was one of the recommendations made by the Child Pornography Task Force, and in its final report, which noted the term "child pornography" is outdated. It minimizes the behavior exhibited by offenders who create or possess illegal images of children. Also, experts outside the legal system use the term "child sexual abuse material" as it more accurately reflects what is depicted in the images. Senate Bill No. 186 and Senate Bill No. 187 will ensure that Pennsylvania statutes reflect the latest terminology and adequately covers these activities. With the internet becoming an ever-increasing part of our children's lives, we need to do all we can do to ensure that they are not at risk and can navigate this tool safely. Children are our most precious resource, and this legislation will help law enforcement and prosecutors police the online space and keep our kids away from dangerous online predators. I would like to also thank the Minority chair of the Committee on Aging and Youth who is also a task force member, Senator Maria Collett, and Senator Lisa Baker, who worked with us to make this happen. I respectfully request an affirmative vote. Thank you.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, today I rise to offer my support for both Senate Bill No. 186 and Senate Bill No. 187, legislation which I have been proud to work alongside my Committee on Aging and Youth co-chair, Senator Judy Ward, to introduce. These two bills, which would amend Pennsylvania statutes by replacing the term "child pornography" with the more accurate term "child sexual abuse material," reflects the recommendations of the Child Pornography Task Force authorized through Act 53 of 2021. Both Senator Judy Ward and I were honored to serve on the task force alongside many other distinguished experts and public servants. And I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the task force for their diligent and dutiful work on behalf of Pennsylvania's children to align the Commonwealth statutes with Federal law and improve the way our Commonwealth investigates and deters these heinous crimes. These recommendations from the task force are clear. It is crucial that we update the language of our laws to call these illegal materials what they are: child abuse. I ask my colleagues to join us today in casting votes supporting the passage of these bills.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator BAKER. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 186 and its companion, Senate Bill No. 187, prime-sponsored by Senator Judy Ward and Senator Maria Collett. I would like to personally thank them for their leadership on this important issue. Cracking down on child sexual abuse and exploitation through distribution of indefensible material was a matter of extreme conscience and extraordinary commitment for our late

colleague Senator Dave Arnold. As a former prosecutor, he realized that, as is common in criminal justice, we would need to constantly be revisiting this subject. That is why the creation of the Task Force on Child Pornography was a key part of Senator Arnold's legislative package and a priority as a Member of the Senate prior to his untimely passing.

So today, we continue to honor his character and his work through our action today by passing these key recommendations from the task force that he championed. Every time a case comes to light, we are painfully reminded that bad actors are skilled at staying ahead of law enforcement and adept at working around legal definitions of abuse. The average person has no difficulty seeing sexual exploitation of children no matter in the form, no matter in the means of distribution, as vile and thoroughly unacceptable. Yet, the term "pornography" has come to be entangled in arguments over free speech and artistic expression in the arena of adults. The test of securing conviction has a higher degree of difficulty in the court of law than the court of public opinion. The definitional clarity that these bills provide might seem small, but it makes a very, very big difference toward the successful prosecution of the creators and distributors of this offensive and destructive material. To effectively combat and curtail child exploitation, we need to be agile, we need to be aggressive in our enforcement and prosecution efforts. These bills represent an important step in addressing this crisis, and I urge an affirmative vote, and I thank my colleagues for introducing them, and I also take a moment to reflect and remember Senator Dave Arnold, our champion on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator DUSH. Mr. President, there have been a number of bills that have been proposed this year to help address the scourge that we have going on with human trafficking and child sexual abuse. The porn industry has done some really innovative stuff in order to skirt the law and to make the abuse of these children seem like it is not the abuse that it is. We are behind other States on these two pieces of legislation, Senate Bill No. 186 and Senate Bill No. 187, in that identifying child sexual abuse material has shown everywhere that it has been changed in the law to actually increase the prosecutions and make it so that people understand exactly what it is that is being prosecuted. And as much as the people who are involved in this industry, this illegal, illicit industry that devastates the lives of these young people--and we are lagging, and we are falling behind them as they are innovating. The legislature moves slowly. Organized crime moves very quickly. They adapt very quickly. I am grateful that we are coming alongside the other States, organizations like Shared Hope International and the ones that we have all over the Commonwealth. People are starting to stand up and be innovative as well in taking this on. And, again, with the Child Pornography Task Force set up by Senator Dave Arnold, this is a fitting follow-up, as has been said earlier, to his legacy. And I thank both Senator Judy Ward and Senator Collett; they have been great partners in this and also in leading the way in this area in particular.

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

SB 187 (Pr. No. 273) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 365, SB 375 and SB 645 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

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

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

Considered the third time and agreed to,

On the question, Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator BARTOLOTTA. Mr. President, Senate Bill No. 761 seeks to streamline the process of sharing critical information between the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis within the Department of Labor and Industry and local workforce development boards. This bill would utilize data that already exists but is not shared with local development boards in a timely fashion. Currently, it takes up to 2 years for this information to be shared. At that point, it can be out of date and not useful. Delayed data sharing impacts the ability of these boards to efficiently analyze programs and policy. By making this data available in a timely manner, the 22 local boards will be able to respond to current trends and adjust their programs to meet these needs. This will greatly increase the success of these programs, make Pennsylvania more attractive to employers, and connect workers with family-sustaining jobs. I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

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-48

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

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 795, SB 1058 and SB 1087 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1099 (Pr. No. 1724) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies, further providing for definitions, for publication and notice, for award of grants, for consolidation incentive, for publication and notice and for award of grants, repealing provisions relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program, further providing for expiration of authority, repealing provisions relating to expiration of authority relating to COVID-19 Crisis Fire Company and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program and to expiration of authority relating to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program and further providing for annual reports.

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. 1099. Pennsylvania has 1,829 fire companies made up of 33 fully funded municipal departments. Meanwhile, there are 1,259 EMS agencies in our Commonwealth. For years, the Fire and EMS Grant Program has provided critical funding to support our fire companies and EMS agencies. This program is due for reauthorization at the end of this month. Senate Bill No. 1099 would ensure that this critical funding remains in place.

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

SB 1138 (Pr. No. 1725) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1157 and **SB 1231** -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 1236 (Pr. No. 1726) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

Considered the third time and agreed to,
And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

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

Senator LAUGHLIN. Mr. President, I rise today to address an issue that strikes at the very heart of justice and fairness for property owners across our great State. The escalating problem of squatters unlawfully occupying properties is more than a legal challenge, it is a personal and emotional ordeal for countless families and individuals who find their homes and investments under siege. As lawmakers, we have a profound responsibility to uphold the principles of justice and respect for private property. Yet under our current framework, too many property owners are left exposed, struggling against a system that does not fully shield their rights or protect their homes. Senate Bill No. 1236 stands as a beacon of hope in this troubling landscape. By clearly defining what constitutes a tenant and simplifying the process of reclaiming property from squatters, this bill offers a practical solution to a deeply distressing problem. Establishing a precise legal status for squatters empowers property owners, granting them the tools they need to safeguard their homes and investments quickly and effectively without wading through needless red tape. Currently, property owners face an exhausting and painful journey to reclaim their own properties. The requirement to issue a notice to quit to individuals who have no legitimate claim not only burdens them financially, but also exacts a heavy emotional toll. Imagine coming home only to find strangers occupying the space where you have created cherished memories and then being told that removing them will require a costly and prolonged legal battle. It is a situation that would fill anyone with frustration and despair.

This legislation is about more than just laws and regulations, it is about restoring a sense of security and justice for those who invested their dreams, savings, and emotions into their properties. Senate Bill No. 1236 ensures that legitimate tenants are protected while closing the door to those who exploit our system to illegally occupy homes. It is a balanced approach that respects the rights of all parties involved. I urge you, my colleagues, to think of the countless property owners who are caught in this nightmare. Their frustration is palpable, their suffering genuine. It is our duty to offer them the legal protections that they so desperately need and deserve. This is not about partisan lines; it is about doing what is right and just. It is about demonstrating our unwavering commitment to protecting the rights of property owners and ensuring that laws are clear, fair, and effective. Imagine the relief

we can bring to families who are living in fear of losing their homes to squatters. Imagine a sense of justice we can restore to those who feel abandoned by a system that should be their shield. We must take this step to provide real, meaningful change for our property owners. And I would also like to take this time to thank Senator Santarsiero and Senator Baker for their collaborative work to make this a better bill. So, thank you, Mr. President, and I ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote on Senate Bill No. 1236.

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-48

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

NAY-0

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

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

HB 1333 (Pr. No. 3295) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 25, 1961 (P.L.857, No.372), referred to as the Stuffed Toy Manufacturing Act, further providing for definitions, for manufacturing, for materials and for enforcement; and providing for labeling and for report.

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-47

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

Cappelletti	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kane	Rothman	Yaw
Costa	Kearney	Santarsiero	

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

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 and SB 522 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 525 (Pr. No. 699) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in agency response, providing for vexatious requester.

Considered the second time and agreed to,
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration. Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 580 and SB 698 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 800 (Pr. No. 1566) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 26 (Eminent Domain) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in procedure to condemn, providing for advanced notice to condemnee; and, in just compensation and measure of damages, providing for compensation for loss of goodwill of business or farm operation.

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.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 841 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 965 (Pr. No. 1215) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31, No.21), known as the Human Services Code, in public assistance, providing for coverage of rapid whole genome sequencing.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 976 (Pr. No. 1220) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to boats and boating, further providing for boating education.

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

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1000 (Pr. No. 1677) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1026 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1080 (Pr. No. 1396) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 29, 1953 (P.L.304, No.66), known as the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, in death and fetal death registration, providing for pronouncement of death by a practical nurse.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER AND LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 1108 (Pr. No. 1462) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 38 (Holidays and Observances) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in veteran recognition, providing for K9 Veterans Day.

Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.
Pursuant to Senate Rule 9, the bill was laid on the table.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

SB 1121 (Pr. No. 1723) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 12 (Commerce and Trade) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission and the Pennsylvania-Ireland Trade Commission Account; imposing duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development; and making an editorial change.

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

SB 1129 (Pr. No. 1718) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions, further providing for definitions; in certificate of title and security interests, further providing for transfer to vehicle salvage dealer and for transfer to scrap metal processor; and, in abandoned vehicles and cargos, further providing for reports by private property owners of abandoned vehicles.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1160 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1192 (Pr. No. 1593) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Department of Military Affairs, further providing for Fort Indiantown Gap; and establishing the Service Members, Veterans and their Families Fund.

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

SB 1193 (Pr. No. 1717) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further providing for assistance to fire companies and EMS companies; and, in incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies, further providing for definitions, for volunteer service credit program, for service record, for certification and for duties of State Fire Commissioner.

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

SB 1200 (Pr. No. 1719) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in licensing of drivers, providing for private driver education and training schools; imposing a penalty; and making a repeal.

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

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 1203 and SB 1230 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1232 (Pr. No. 1667) -- 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 liability and compensation, further providing for payment of compensation.

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

SB 1241 (Pr. No. 1716) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.789, No.285), known as The Insurance Department Act of 1921, in insurance producers, further providing for definitions, for powers and duties of department, for license prerequisites and for licensing.

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

SB 1244 (Pr. No. 1698) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

SB 1246 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND RECOMMITTED

SB 1254 (Pr. No. 1715) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 4 (Amusements) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to gaming, further providing for definitions; in Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, further providing for general and specific powers, for regulatory authority of board and for number of slot machines; in licensees, further providing for Category 4 slot machine license, for manufacturer licenses, for gaming service provider, for nongaming service provider, for occupation permit application, for slot machine accounting controls and audits and for renewals; in table games, further providing for regulatory authority; in revenues, further providing for slot machine licensee deposits; in administration and enforcement, further providing for investigations and enforcement, for prohibited acts and penalties and for liquor licenses at licensed facilities; and, in miscellaneous provisions relating to gaming, providing for live-streaming on casino floor.

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

Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was recommitted to the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 1446, HB 1664 and HB 1730 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 1754 (Pr. No. 3198) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.682, No.284), known as The Insurance Company Law of 1921, in casualty insurance, providing for coverage for biomarker testing.

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

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 2055 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 2096 (Pr. No. 2677) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

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

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

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 196, ADOPTED

Senator PITTMAN, without objection, called up from page 10 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 196**, entitled:

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.

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

On the question,
Will the Senate adopt the resolution?

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

Senator COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Resolution No. 196. Senate Resolution No. 196 directs 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 (or MST), and traumatic brain injury (or TBI) 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. A small percentage of military veterans become involved in the criminal justice system. The Department of Defense estimates that over 313 [sic] military veterans have experienced some type of TBI related to their service. Having an accurate picture of the number of veterans involved in Pennsylvania's criminal justice system and their needs relative to PTSD, MST, and TBI will facilitate policy discussions around how to best accommodate their unique needs.

The idea behind this study originated from Richard Hudzinski with the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council. The Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council's engagement during the drafting process provided my staff and I with a much-needed perspective. My office also consulted with the State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the State Department of Corrections, and the Sentencing Commission for feedback and suggestions about the best way to approach this challenging topic. I would also like to take a moment to thank Noah Glattke from Senator Langerholc's office and the Committee on Judiciary's executive director, Ryan Shovlin, for all the assistance they provided on this matter. The small percentage of military veterans who becomes involved with the criminal justice system face special challenges. I hope that the results of the study will provide the legislature with information and insights we need to ensure the best outcomes for everyone. I ask for your support and affirmative vote in the passage of this resolution. Thank you.

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

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

YEA-48

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

NAY-0

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

The PRESIDENT. The resolution is adopted.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 77, TABLED

Senator PITTMAN, without objection, called up from page 10 of the Calendar, **Senate Resolution No. 77**, entitled:

A Concurrent Resolution petitioning the Congress of the United States to call a Convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the United States limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the Federal Government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the Federal Government and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.

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

**SENATE RESOLUTION No. 77
TAKEN FROM THE TABLE**

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that **Senate Resolution No. 77** be taken from the table and placed on the Calendar.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS
BILLS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION**

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

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The bills were as follows:

SB 913, SB 971, SB 1171, SB 1175, SB 1250, SB 1251, SB 1252, HB 109, HB 327, HB 1490 and HB 1818.

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024

11:00 A.M. TRANSPORTATION (public hearing on Pittsburgh's Airways and Inland Waterways) Pitt. Int. Airport
1000 Airport Blvd.
Landside Terminal
4th Floor Mezz.
Conference Rm. A
Pittsburgh

MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

Off the Floor AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS (to consider Senate Bills No. 82 and 1269; and House Bill No. 2357) Room 461
Main Capitol

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1121, 1147, 1183, 1232, 1241, 1270 and 1275; and House Bill No. 1889) Rules Committee
Conference Room

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

10:30 A.M. CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE (to consider Senate Bills No. 540 and 1031; and House Bill No. 491) Room 461
Main Capitol

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

10:00 A.M. VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (public hearing to consider the following PA National Guard Officer up for promotion: Colonel Scott D. Harron (Air National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Lynn M. Lee (Air National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Brian K. Lehw (Air National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Jaime E. Ramirez (Air National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Traci L. Wallace (Air National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Frank J. McGovern IV (Army National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Francis R. Montgomery (Army National Guard), Brigadier General; Colonel Shawn D. Wray (Army National Guard), Brigadier General; and Brigadier General John R. Pippy (Army National Guard), Major General) Room 8E-B
East Wing
(LIVE
STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

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

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a significant holiday in American history, Juneteenth. Juneteenth, taking place on June 19 each year, is the oldest commemoration of the abolition of slavery in the United States. On June 19, 1865, 2 1/2 years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was issued, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to take control of the State and ensure the last enslaved people were finally freed. Juneteenth was officially recognized as a Pennsylvania holiday in 2019 and a Federal holiday in 2021. For 159 years, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, has celebrated Black liberation. It also represents an opportunity to reflect on American history and the continued struggle for racial justice in our nation. In honor of Juneteenth, I want to shine a light on some of the fantastic Black-owned businesses that call the 12th Senatorial District home, places like Electro Soft, Inc., and Tail Spinz doggie daycare in Montgomery Township; Nutz About Popcorn and Cyrenity Sips Winery in Hatboro Borough; Be Still Nutrition in Hatfield Borough; Duke's Cafe in Horsham Township; La-Radiance Salon and The Black Reserve Bookstore in Lansdale Borough; BTC Envelopes & Printing, LLC, in Plymouth Township; Handi Boyz property maintenance in Ambler Borough; Menagerie Foods mobile catering, and just so many more. This month and every month, I encourage Pennsylvanians to visit and support Black-owned businesses in their neighborhoods, to find and participate in Juneteenth events happening in their communities, and to learn about and reflect upon the history of National Freedom Day and the immeasurable impact our Black community members have had on our nation.

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

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator SCHWANK. Madam President, in an effort to discuss some of the issues leading up to June 30, which is our deadline for a budget, I wanted to bring attention to one of the issues that I feel that is critical to be included in our budget, and that is addressing childcare. I believe that early education is critically important. In daycares, preschools, and other learning institutions, children develop crucial skills and lessons that will form the foundation of their personal experience. Early childhood education is where we set up our children to succeed. The unfortunate truth, however, is that Pennsylvania is behind the curve when it comes to prioritizing early education. Childcare workers and pre-K teachers are among the lowest-paid positions in our workforce, contributing to over 3,300 unfilled positions throughout the Commonwealth. If these positions were filled, childcare providers could serve about almost 17,000 more children than they are able to serve now. Thousands of more early learners would finally have access to the education they deserve. This historic teacher shortage is shutting down early learning programs across the State, forcing our working families on long wait lists for childcare. And I can tell you firsthand, Madam President, in my district, I visited so many childcare centers where rooms are closed--infant rooms or toddler rooms--simply because they do not have a teacher to serve, and they have to have mandated, required staffing in these facilities. We demand it, and we need it. It is unfortunate this is happening.

Governor Shapiro has proposed increasing childcare subsidy reimbursement rates to the 75th percentile of the current price families pay for childcare services to help alleviate some of the costs that these providers are facing. Supplemental assistance programs as well, there are rate increases proposed for those to provide resources to help bridge the gap between what pre-K teachers can earn and their K to 12 counterparts. Many States are directly investing in recruitment, retention, and wage-impacting strategies to solve the childcare teacher shortage and ensure that childcare supply can meet the demand for working families. Eighteen States, including Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Tennessee have been investing in these types of initiatives to cut down teacher turnover rates. Maine, Kentucky, and Nebraska all pay at or above the 75th percentile and have made additional investments in recruitment and retention programs to address staffing shortages and stabilize their childcare and pre-K systems.

Investing in our early learning workforce to stabilize our childcare and pre-K systems is essential from an economic, community safety, and even a national security perspective. That is why I support an initiative that is being proposed by childcare advocacy organizations throughout the State that will invest \$284 million in a retention and an incentive program to help pay these teachers, who are among the most important people in our lives for those of us who access childcare, to pay them enough so that they will continue to stay in these jobs, that we can hire the highest-quality workforce that our children deserve. Let us remember, this is the workforce behind the workforce. These are the people who make it possible for so many of our young families, parents in Pennsylvania, to be able to work. I am hopeful that this will be

discussed and be a part of this upcoming budget. Thank you very much.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

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

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES (Continued)

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

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Madam President, I rise because today marks 6,548 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our minimum wage. Madam President, our minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. This rate has remained unchanged since 2009, when the Federal government set it at 7.25, raising the minimum wage from 7.15. Despite the rising cost of living, our Commonwealth's low-wage earners have not received any reprieve for a decade and a half. But Madam President, what is more shocking than our embarrassing, low minimum wage is that it is almost perfectly in line with the poverty-level wage for a single adult household in our State. According to MIT's Living Wage Calculator, the poverty-level wage in Pennsylvania is \$7.24 per hour. This means our minimum wage is just 1 cent above the poverty line. For many, working full-time at minimum-wage jobs means that they will be left struggling to make ends meet and unable to cover basic necessities such as housing, healthcare, and food. Consider this, Madam President, an individual working full time at a current minimum wage earns an annual income of \$15,080. This amount is insufficient to meet the Federal poverty threshold for a 2-person household, which was 18,900 in 2022. For single parents or adults supporting dependents, this poverty-level wage becomes even more of a prison sentence, pushing them deeper and deeper into financial insecurity and poverty. Raising the minimum wage is not just increased earnings, it is about restoring dignity to work, Madam President. It is about ensuring that no one who works a full-time job should live in poverty. Higher wages lead to greater economic stability to families, which in turn benefit our communities and the State's economy as a whole. When workers have more money, they spend more money on goods and services, stimulating local businesses and fostering economic growth. Let me be clear, Madam President, we must act. We need to pass meaningful minimum-wage reform. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 1186, which is because I recognize the pain our minimum-wage and low-wage earners are feeling. We can and we must do more, Madam President. Let us come together and put Pennsylvanians on a path to a livable wage. Let us pass Senate Bill No. 1186.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator COSTA. Madam President, I rise today in observance of the anniversary of the Pulse nightclub shooting, a horrific act of violence that killed 49 people and injured another 53. Last week I took this floor and asked for the movement of a series of gun safety legislation in order to protect our communities and our neighborhoods, and all that language that I spoke about last week on this floor applies to this heartbreaking anniversary. But today I rise to bring attention to legislation that will specifically

empower our LGBTQ+ community members. All of us deserve to live fruitful lives here in Pennsylvania, no matter who we love or what we look like. Every June, Madam President, we observe Pride Month, and we celebrate the beautiful diversity, creativity, and joy of the LGBTQ+ community that they bring into our lives. I was proud to participate 2 weeks ago in our Pride parade in Pittsburgh, as always delighted to see the wonderful music, dancing, as mentioned, the power and creativity on display. Madam President, however, many barriers continue to exist for LGBTQ+ friends and neighbors, leaving them vulnerable to homelessness, joblessness, acts of hatred, and lack of access to medical care. I personally worked closely with my colleague from Allegheny County, Representative Dan Frankel, on a series of anti-hate crime bills to protect not only the LGBTQ folks, but also from hate-based violence and allow better tracking of hate crimes here in this Commonwealth, legislation for the past two Sessions we have introduced and hopefully we will get across the finish line at some point in the future.

Moreover, I highlighted last week the Fairness Act has not been brought to the vote here in the Senate, neither the House version, House Bill No. 300, nor the Senate version introduced by my colleagues, Senator Santarsiero and Senator Saval, has seen even a debate or a hearing or a vote. At a time when people are being singled out and targeted for their sexual orientation and their gender identity, we must do more to be able to deliver real opportunity and protect the freedoms of our LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians. My fellow Senate Democrats have introduced many bills that will support these individuals in Pennsylvania in numerous ways, including, as I mentioned, from protecting from discrimination, support for legal name changes, representation in our libraries, and our healthcare for these seniors.

I will submit, Madam President, a comprehensive list of bills we have introduced for the record. As we observe this tragic anniversary and celebrate Pride Month, I look forward to meaningful conversation about how we can defend and expand opportunities for our LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and advance the legislation that addresses not only this community but also addressing hate crimes here in Pennsylvania.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

(The following prepared document was made part of the record at the request of the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator COSTA:)

Boscola

- SB 474 (Boscola) - This bill would protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination in the credit service industry. The bill adds denying credit or increasing charges and fees based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression as a "prohibited activity" for credit service companies.

Cappelletti

- SB 926 - This bill would require Pennsylvania's State librarian and our local libraries to:
 - 1) adopt the American Library Association's library Bill of Rights, which states that materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval; and to 2) develop a written statement that prohibits the local library from banning books or other materials. Pennsylvania ranks among the worst States in book banning efforts, where there were 56 attempts to ban 302 unique titles. Of those titles, the vast majority were written by or about members

of the LGBTQIA+ community or by and about Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

Collett

- SB 902 - This bill would prohibit the use of any LGBTQ+ panic defense in this Commonwealth. The "LGBTQ+ panic" defense theory allows for perpetrators of criminal actions against Pennsylvania's LGBTQ+ community to receive a lesser sentence and, in some cases even avoid being convicted or punished, by placing the blame for their actions on a victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

Comitta

- CS Memo - This bill would commission and place a bust of West Chester native Bayard Rustin, a prominent historical civil rights and LGBTQ rights activist, in the Pennsylvania Capitol Complex.

Costa

- SB 648-653 - This bill package addresses hate crimes and ethnic intimidation in Pennsylvania by improving enforcement of our hate crime statute and providing victims with additional support and relief.

Haywood

- SR 214 (Haywood) - This resolution would recognize the accomplishments of freedom fighters, including LGBTQ activists Frank Kameny and Marsha P. Johnson.

Kane

- SB 880 (with Muth) - This bill would prohibit the use of solitary confinement on pregnant women, LGBTQ individuals, anyone age 21 and younger, and anyone age 70 and older in Pennsylvania, and caps the use of solitary confinement for all other incarcerated individuals at 15 days. Additionally, this legislation would prohibit the use of restraint chairs, chemical agents, and shackles.

Kearney

- SB 523 (with Cappelletti, Muth, L. Williams) - This bill would protect individual privacy and prevent discrimination by removing sex designations on PA birth certificates.
- SB 524 (with Cappelletti, Muth, L. Williams) - This bill would direct that money be allocated, from the General Fund, to establish a grant program, housed in DCED, for organizations, county governments, and municipal governments that assist transgender individuals in navigating the process of changing their names.

Muth

- SB 528 (with Cappelletti, Kearney, L. Williams) - This bill would make the legal name change process more affordable and create privacy protections by removing the Title 54 requirements for publication and mandating the sealing of court records from the outset of the proceedings.
- SB 574 (with Cappelletti, Kearney, L. Williams) - This bill would eliminate both the permanent bar and the two-year wait period for formerly incarcerated felons who have served their time and wish to change their names so that they can live life as their genuine identity.

Santarsiero

- SB 150 (with Saval) - This bill would prohibit discrimination based on an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. No Pennsylvanian should be fired from a job, or denied housing, or excluded from public spaces because of who they are.
- SR 36 (Santarsiero) - This resolution would recognize February 15, 2023, as "Love is Love Day" in Pennsylvania.
- CS Memo (Santarsiero) - This resolution would recognize February 15, 2024, as "Love is Love Day" in Pennsylvania.

Street

- SB 326 - This bill would require all State forms which collect demographic information to contain a voluntary LGBTQ+ identifier question for respondents to answer. This small, yet substantial change would not only begin to amass a more accurate accounting of the LGBTQ+ population in Pennsylvania, but it would also allow the Pennsylvania General Assembly to begin proposing initiatives that could make a positive impact in the LGBTQ+ community and potentially save lives.
- SB 370 - This bill would award grants to non-profit organizations and local governments for health care, cultural competency, computer training, job placement, social activities, and other programs that specifically help the LGBTQ+ senior community.

A. Williams

- CS Memo - This bill would ban State-licensed mental health professionals from engaging in sexual orientation "reparative" or

"conversion" therapy with minors, otherwise referred to as sexual orientation change efforts.

L. Williams

•SB 526 (with Cappelletti, Kearney, Muth) - This bill would require the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to provide accurate, publicly available information detailing the name change process and the steps required in a widely available, accessible format, a dedicated and safe point of contact to help trans individuals navigate the name change process and connect with resources in their area, and training so that all staff, judges, and administrators involved in the name change process are knowledgeable, competent, and affirming.

•SB 554 (with Comitta) - This bill would protect LGBTQ+ students from being discriminated against by schools that receive funding through EITC and OSTC. It would do this by requiring that schools which receive funding through these programs have a written policy of nondiscrimination.

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 Monday, June 24, 2024, at 1 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 12:20 p.m., Eastern Daylight Saving Time.