

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

SESSION OF 2022

206TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 9

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 11 a.m., e.s.t.

THE SPEAKER (BRYAN CUTLER) PRESIDING

PRAYER

HON. ROBERT F. MATZIE, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Book of Peter says "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

Now let us pray:

Pray for a spirit of cooperation and eagerness to contribute to the needs of the whole body, so that our world is built not just with sweat, bricks, and mortar, but with love, integrity, care, and cooperative teamwork.

Therefore, let us pray to go forth in unity and purpose as we do our part in building each other up as we encourage others to use their talents and acquired skills, all the while striving for unity. In our service we desire to please, even as we serve and strengthen one another. Now let us all strive to go forth in faithful service to all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members and visitors.)

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Monday, February 7, 2022, will be postponed until printed.

BILLS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED FIRST TIME, AND TABLED

HB 1984, PN 2717 (Amended) By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending the act of June 30, 1981 (P.L.128, No.43), known as the Agricultural Area Security Law, further providing for purchase of agricultural conservation easements.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 2212, PN 2577

By Rep. MOUL

An Act repealing the act of September 1, 1965 (P.L.420, No.215), entitled "An act for the protection of the public health, and to prevent fraud and deception in the manufacture, sale, offering for sale, exposing for sale, and possession with intent to sell, of adulterated or deleterious frozen desserts, providing for licensing, authorizing and regulating the manufacture and sale of frozen desserts, conferring powers and imposing duties upon the Department of Agriculture, prescribing penalties, providing for the enforcement thereof, and making repeals."

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

HB 2315, PN 2693

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in additional special funds and restricted accounts, further providing for distributions from Pennsylvania Race Horse Development Fund.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

SB 450, PN 1384 (Amended)

By Rep. MOUL

An Act amending the act of June 30, 1987 (P.L.163, No.16), known as the Rural Pennsylvania Revitalization Act, in Center for Rural Pennsylvania, further providing for board of directors; and making a repeal.

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS.

SENATE MESSAGE

RECESS RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
February 8, 2022

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, March 28, 2022, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, March 21, 2022, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses the week of March 21, 2022, it reconvene the week of Monday, March 28, 2022, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

COMMUNICATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER. The Speaker submits for the record the Annual Financing Strategy Report, Fiscal Year 2021-2022, from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

(Copy of communication is on file with the Journal clerk.)

SENATE MESSAGE

AMENDED HOUSE BILL RETURNED FOR CONCURRENCE AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, returned **HB 1082, PN 2714**, with information that the Senate has passed the same with amendment in which the concurrence of the House of Representatives is requested.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Turning to leaves of absence. Are there requests for leaves?

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, the majority whip, who indicates that there are none. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, the Democratic whip, who indicates that there are none.

MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER. The Chair is about to take the master roll call. Members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

PRESENT—200

Armanini	Frankel	Longietti	Rigby
Benham	Freeman	Mackenzie, M.	Roae
Benninghoff	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rossi
Bernstine	Galloway	Madden	Rothman
Bizzarro	Gaydos	Major	Rowe
Boback	Gillen	Mako	Rozzi
Bonner	Gillespie	Malagari	Ryan

Borowicz	Gleim	Maloney	Sainato
Boyle	Gregory	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Greiner	Marshall	Sanchez
Briggs	Grove	Masser	Sankey
Brooks	Guenst	Matzie	Sappery
Brown, A.	Guzman	McClinton	Saylor
Brown, R.	Hamm	McNeill	Schemel
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mehaffie	Schlossberg
Burgos	Harkins	Mentzer	Schmitt
Burns	Harris	Mercuri	Schroeder
Carroll	Heffley	Merski	Schweyer
Causer	Helm	Metcalfe	Shusterman
Cephas	Hennessey	Metzgar	Silvis
Ciresi	Herrin	Mihalek	Sims
Conklin	Hershey	Millard	Smith
Cook	Hickernell	Miller, B.	Snyder
Cox	Hohenstein	Miller, D.	Solomon
Cruz	Howard	Mizgorski	Sonney
Culver	Innamorato	Moul	Staats
Curry	Irvin	Mullery	Stambaugh
Daley	Isaacson	Mullins	Stephens
Davanzo	James	Mustello	Struzzi
Davis, A.	Jones	Neilson	Sturla
Davis, T.	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Thomas
Dawkins	Kail	Nelson, N.	Tomlinson
Day	Kaufner	O'Mara	Topper
Deasy	Kauffman	O'Neal	Twardzik
DeLissio	Keefer	Oberlander	Vitali
Delloso	Kenyatta	Ortitay	Warner
Delozier	Kerwin	Otten	Warren
DelRosso	Kim	Owlett	Webster
DeLuca	Kinkead	Parker	Welby
Diamond	Kinsey	Pashinski	Wentling
Dowling	Kirkland	Peifer	Wheeland
Driscoll	Klunk	Pennycuik	White
Dunbar	Knowles	Pickett	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kosierowski	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Krajewski	Polinchock	Young
Evans	Krueger	Puskaric	Zabel
Farry	Kulik	Quinn	Zimmerman
Fee	Labs	Rabb	
Fiedler	Lawrence	Rader	Cutler, Speaker
Fitzgerald	Lee	Rapp	
Flood	Lewis		

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

The SPEAKER. Two hundred members having voted on the master roll, a quorum is present.

The House will be temporarily at ease while we allow the guests to come onto the floor.

The House will please return to order.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR JOINT SESSION

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication in writing from the office of His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of the Governor

January 4, 2022

The Honorable Jake Corman The Honorable Bryan Cutler
President Pro Tempore Speaker
Senate of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Dear President Pro Tempore Corman and Speaker Cutler:

If it meets with the approval of the General Assembly, I am respectfully requesting a Joint Session of the General Assembly on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. The purpose of this session would be to address the members of the House and Senate for the annual budget address, at a time that is convenient to the General Assembly.

Sincerely,
Tom Wolf
Governor

SENATE MESSAGE

JOINT SESSION

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate
Tuesday, February 8, 2022

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session today, February 8, 2022, at 11:30 A.M. in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of hearing an address by His Excellency, Governor Tom Wolf; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a committee of three, on the part of the Senate, be appointed to act with a similar committee on the part of the House of Representatives, to escort His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT GOVERNOR

Mr. BENNINGHOFF offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
February 8, 2022

RESOLVED, That the Speaker appoint a committee of three to escort the Governor to the Hall of the House for the purpose of attending a Joint Session of the General Assembly.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker appoints as a committee to wait upon the Governor, the gentleman from Pike County, Mike Peifer; the lady from Monroe County, Rosemary Brown; and the lady from Delaware County, Gina Curry.

The committee will proceed with the performance of its duties.

The House will be at ease.

The House will come to order.

ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Members and guests, please rise as able.

The Speaker recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is now present in the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER. The Speaker requests that the Lieutenant Governor, the Honorable John Fetterman; and the President pro tem of the Senate, the Honorable Jake Corman, to be seated on the rostrum.

To members of the House and Senate, please be seated.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE SPEAKER (BRYAN CUTLER) PRESIDING

The SPEAKER. This being the day and the hour agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives to hear an address by His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Tom Wolf, the joint session will please come to order.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ESCORTING GOVERNOR

The SPEAKER. The General Assembly will be at ease while we await the arrival of the Governor. Please take your seats.

The Governor is now entering the hall of the House. Members and guests, please rise.

The Speaker recognizes the chair of the committee to escort the Governor, the gentleman from Carbon and Luzerne Counties, Senator John Yudichak.

Mr. YUDICHAK. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege of the highest order to return to the people's House where my public service career began 24 years ago. As a freshman House member, I served on the committee to escort Gov. Tom Ridge. Today I serve as the chairman of the committee to escort Gov. Tom Wolf. It is an honor to share this special moment at the Speaker's

rostrum with my friends and colleagues in the House and Senate, both past and present.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the General Assembly, as the chair of the committee to escort the Governor, I wish to report that His Excellency, the Governor, is present and is prepared to address this joint session.

The SPEAKER. Members of the General Assembly, I now have the honor and privilege of presenting His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Tom Wolf, who will now address this joint session.

Governor Wolf.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
BUDGET ADDRESS OF
GOV. TOM WOLF**

The GOVERNOR. Speaker Cutler; President Corman; Lieutenant Governor Fetterman; Leader Ward; Leader Costa; Leader Benninghoff; Leader McClinton; members of the General Assembly; invited guests, friends, family – especially Frances, my wife – and my fellow Pennsylvanians:

Seven years ago, I stood here to deliver my first budget address as Governor. I tried to strike a hopeful tone. But the truth was, we were in really tough shape. The Commonwealth was failing to deliver on the fundamental promise of opportunity to all its citizens.

The list of challenges was long. We were not funding our schools adequately or fairly. We were ranked near the very bottom of the country when it came to job creation. Too many Pennsylvanians were going without health insurance. Too many were incarcerated in our State correctional institutions. And we were in no financial condition to do much of anything about any of it.

As I took the podium that day, we were facing a structural budget deficit of \$2 billion to \$3 billion. We had become one of the least creditworthy States in the nation. We could not even pay our annual pension bill. And our Rainy Day Fund was down to its last \$231,800. Now, if you do the math, that is about 20 minutes, 20 minutes' worth of the Commonwealth's annual operating budget. In other words, our finances were a mess. And there was really no speech that I, or anyone else, could have given that day that would change that reality.

So all I asked that day was that we try something different. We needed to acknowledge the failure of the approach Harrisburg had long taken in the face of these challenges, and try to forge a new path forward.

It did not happen overnight. In fact, some of you might recall, our journey began with a 9-month budget impasse that only reinforced Pennsylvanians' skepticism about our ability to get anything done. In the years since, there has certainly been plenty of wrangling, arguing, negotiating, and plain old yelling in the halls of this Capitol. But we stuck it out, Democrats and Republicans. We did not give up on each other, and we did not give up on Pennsylvania. Now look how far we have come.

Over the last 7 years, we have invested nearly \$2 billion into our classrooms: investments in early childhood education, investments in pre-K, investments in K through 12 education. We even came together to create a bipartisan public school fair funding formula.

We have driven Pennsylvania's uninsured rate to the lowest level ever. We have cut our prison population by 11,000 at the same time we have cut the crime rate. We have reduced our carbon footprint. We have paved the way for a transition to a sustainable energy future. We have reformed our pension system. And so much more. Hey, we can even buy beer and wine where we buy our groceries.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together. But I also know that we still face significant challenges. If you are a Pennsylvanian worried about how you are going to support your family, or if you do not know how you are going to pay for your kid's college tuition, or if you are struggling to keep up with the rising costs of everything from groceries to health care, you do not want to hear about how far we have come over the last 7 years. You want to know what we are going to do next.

So let us take advantage of the opportunity before us. And indeed, these are days of opportunity for our Commonwealth.

That is because, at long last, our fiscal house is actually in order. Over the past 7 years, we have turned that \$2 billion to \$3 billion structural budget deficit into a \$2 billion to \$3 billion structural budget surplus. We have built our Rainy Day Fund to more than \$2.8 billion – and that is more than 12,000 times what it was when I took office. And that is the highest it has ever been.

We are no longer digging out of a hole. We are ready to build. And this year's budget does exactly that, making new investments that will build a stronger and brighter future for Pennsylvania families.

Let us take a moment to be clear about how we got here. We did not achieve our sound financial position by raising taxes. In fact, we eliminated the capital stock and franchise tax entirely.

We got here actually instead by paying our bills. And when I say that, I am not just talking about fiscal responsibility. I am talking about the fact that we all collectively took personal responsibility for addressing our challenges instead of passing them off to someone else.

Let me give you an example. For years, we used all sorts of creative ways to avoid fully paying our pension bill – anybody remember "collars"? But we were merely postponing the inevitable, and in the process, raising the ultimate cost of fulfilling our obligations.

It did not happen overnight, but we finally took responsibility. Democrats and Republicans came together and decided that we were going to start paying our bill in full, even if that meant overhauling our system to bring it into line with reasonable employee retirement expectations.

For all the innovative policies we have introduced and debated here in Harrisburg over the years – the last 7 years especially – the most radical thing we have done is simply live up to our commitments.

But there is still one big commitment left unfulfilled. The fair funding formula was created by a bipartisan commission chaired by two Republican legislators, and it represents a long-overdue step towards achieving equal opportunity in our Commonwealth. It promises that a child's chance to thrive will not be determined by their ZIP (Zoning Improvement Plan) Code. Now it is time to keep that promise.

This is one of those cans it would be really easy to kick down the road. We could make it someone else's problem. We could leave it for another Governor and another legislature to figure out.

But we know better. We know that putting off the inevitable is not solving the problem. The truth is, the longer we go without paying this bill, the more it is going to end up costing us.

Refusing to fund education equitably simply does not save us money. It just means we wind up spending more on other things: social services, remedial programs, even prisons. And that calculation does not take into account the opportunity costs of failing to invest in our kids: the skills our workforce does not develop, the products and services that never become a reality, the business growth and tax revenues that just vanish.

We are going to have to pay this bill eventually. And there has never been a better time to take a giant step forward than right now. We can afford to invest a whole lot more in the fair funding formula without raising one penny in State taxes. And we can afford to do that without asking any school district, anywhere in Pennsylvania, to sacrifice one penny in State funding.

Let us not waste this opportunity. Let us not force our successors in public office – not to mention our kids and grandkids – to pay the price for our failure to act.

Last year, we made a historic investment in our schools. This year, we have an opportunity to build on that momentum and make a generational difference for students all across the Commonwealth.

Speaking of paying our bills, we should also make this the year we make it a little easier for Pennsylvania families to pay theirs. Most States across the nation have a higher minimum wage than Pennsylvania. In fact, on January 1 this year, minimum-wage workers in neighboring States of Ohio, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York all got a raise. Most of the States in our region are on their way to a \$15 minimum wage. Not here. Pennsylvania's minimum wage is still stuck at \$7.25. Pennsylvanians have not gotten a raise in 13 years. Adjusted for inflation, they have actually taken a \$2-an-hour pay cut. We are literally surrounded by States that are giving minimum-wage workers a better deal. And this is embarrassing.

Just like school funding, refusing to address the problem, in that case or in this case, will not make either go away. In fact, quite the opposite. Our failure to increase the minimum wage is costing us right now dearly. It is simple. When people are able to earn a decent wage, they can contribute to the economic lives of their communities – and the Commonwealth. On the other hand, when they work full time but still do not earn enough to pay for bare necessities like food, shelter, clothing, and heat, taxpayers end up footing the bill.

It is not complicated. And it is not abstract, either. If we adopted, for example, Senator Tartaglione and Representative Kim's plan to raise our minimum wage, the economic benefit to our Commonwealth would amount to over \$77 million in the very first year. And that includes not only increased revenues, but also savings from State benefits programs – because when more Pennsylvanians get paid fairly, reliance on public benefits goes down.

It is time to do the right thing. It is time to do the smart thing. It is time to raise our minimum wage.

The truth is, the experience we have had here in Harrisburg over the last 7 years – digging out of a massive financial hole – is familiar to a whole lot of Pennsylvanians. In recent years, we have faced a once-in-a-lifetime financial crisis and a once-in-a-century pandemic. Working people have been dealt some really tough cards.

We have weathered those storms relatively well, and we are going to be okay. But when it comes to their families' economic futures, we simply cannot ask Pennsylvanians to settle for just "okay." Now that we are out of the hole, it is time to start building something better. And we are actually in a position to help families in our Commonwealth do just that.

In fact, we owe it to them. Because they have carried us through these difficult times and they have laid the foundation for our Commonwealth's comeback. Thanks to our workers and our businesses, Pennsylvania's economy is thriving. If we were our own independent nation, that nation would have the 18th largest economy in the world. We are strong in manufacturing, in natural resources, in human capital. We have seen explosive growth in traditional industries like tourism and agriculture, and in cutting-edge industries like robotics, life sciences, and petrochemicals.

We did not get here by slashing taxes for corporations; in fact, I think our corporate tax rate is too high, and this year I am once again calling for a reduction. No: We got here by investing in our people. For example, we have made our institutions of secondary and postsecondary education better and more relevant to the career needs of all Pennsylvanians by making major investments in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, dual enrollment programs, and career and technical education programs.

We have also invested heavily in our Pennsylvania State universities, which are transforming themselves for a brighter future. These investments have allowed us to expand registered apprenticeship programs into new industries and expand these opportunities for more people. And we have been able to develop more educational and training offerings tailored to the specific needs of Pennsylvania businesses.

Now, our budget surplus is not an excuse for a spending spree – but it is a chance to make more investments that can open the doors to more opportunity for more Pennsylvania families. More investments in job training and small business assistance so people can find not just a job that pays, but a career they are actually passionate about. More investments in clean energy and infrastructure so we can lay the foundation for another generation of economic success. More investments in health care so that we can fight the opioid epidemic and improve mental health.

We are no longer near the bottom in job creation. But a job is just the beginning of what people need, of what people want, of what people expect. We can do so much more for the people of Pennsylvania. And we can do it without raising taxes one penny.

That is the opportunity we have earned, and now is the time to seize it.

Paying our bills and investing in our people put us on the road to our Commonwealth's comeback. And paying our bills and investing in our people will pave the way for many more days of opportunity ahead. What got us here will move us toward the future we want, and that is the future that Pennsylvanians deserve.

But I want to suggest one more principle that will help us continue down the right path, a principle that applies not just to elected officials here in Harrisburg, but to every citizen watching or reading this speech today or sometime in the future. It is about our brand of partisan politics. I am not naive. And I know partisanship is a part of our jobs. It is what democracy is all about. People disagree. People argue. Then we move on with policies that have actually been made better by all that arguing and disagreeing.

I know that as soon as I am done here, folks are going to run out into the hallway and take shots with the pieces of my budget they do not like. And that is fine; that is fine. Because a lot of those same people, a lot of those same people have brought some really good ideas to the table, and some of those good ideas are already part of my proposal.

I may not get everything I want in this budget. And that is okay too. Because there is nothing we cannot do if we stick together and refuse to get discouraged.

In our political system, the future belongs to the coalition-builders and the consensus-seekers. Those who understand our true impact can only be measured by the work we actually get done for the people whose lives we actually improve. That is a good thing. Those are the people you want in charge.

But what is happening now and what we are seeing now in this country – that is something different. A significant number of our political leaders are turning against the very idea of democracy itself. And that kind of nihilism is poisonous. It denies the whole idea of civil disagreement. It denies the whole idea that we can eventually find common ground without force. It denies that democracy can ultimately bring us to a better place.

After all, we can choose to be cooperative or we can choose to be intransigent, but when we walk away from the very idea of democratic governance, we wind up somewhere we cannot come back from. We lose our only mechanism for resolving our disagreements fairly, or even peacefully. And without it, we become irrevocably fragmented, a nation where we have no responsibility to work alongside our neighbor, just an incentive to gain and wield power at any cost.

This is the last opportunity for this group, for us, to convince Pennsylvanians that we can work together to do some truly important things for the people we were sent here to serve. We have a chance here in Pennsylvania to make a substantial contribution to our democracy. Let us remind the world that democracy works. And let us do that with this budget.

By all means, let us argue over it. But in the end, let us roll out an on-time budget that continues on the path we have traveled for the last 7 years. Let us agree on a budget that continues to make Pennsylvania better for the people who live and who work here. Let us remind the world that a democracy can, in fact, deliver.

This is important, because I know we all love this Commonwealth. And I cannot tell you what a gift it has been for me to be able to have served for two terms as Governor. Not every day has been easy, but every day has been rewarding. It has been a privilege to do this noble work. It has been the greatest privilege of my life. And I am really grateful.

So I am grateful to my Cabinet and I am grateful to my staff, who have worked so hard and committed so much of their lives to this work. I am grateful to the people who work here in Harrisburg – not just the legislators and your staffs, but the people who keep this building going and the people who keep us safe.

And while I am at it, I want to say a special thank-you to all the employees of the Commonwealth all across the State who typically receive too much blame when things go wrong and get too little credit when things go right.

From the day I took office, I have been impressed by the dedication and selflessness of State employees. And I have worked to make sure that we do a better job of rewarding them for their hard work.

Over the last 7 years, I have implemented changes to make the Commonwealth a premier employer, with benefits and policies to support workers that keep up with changes in the private sector. We have raised the minimum wage for State workers. We have implemented a telework policy that has increased productivity. We established paid parental leave, and modernized the hiring process – and this year's budget includes funding for two new child-care options to help them balance career and family. We have taken big steps toward making Pennsylvania a model employer for one simple reason: we are blessed to have model employees.

I also want to thank my family, who have been my source of strength and wisdom and joy. This has been their service too, and it has been lengthy and it has been hard – I have grandkids now that I did not have when I was first sworn in, and I cannot wait to spend more time with them.

I am especially excited to spend more time with Frances. And I think it says something about how lucky I am that after 47 years of marriage, we are hoping to spend *more* time together in the years ahead.

Frances did not sign up for this. When I proposed to her in that subway station 47 years ago to ask her to marry me, I did not know that our journey would ultimately lead to public office. And she is not the only one who thought that. But she has not only come along on this journey with me, but she has encouraged me every step of the way. She has made me a better public servant and a better person. She is the love of my life. She is my best friend. And she has been an incredible First Lady.

Finally, I am grateful to the people of Pennsylvania for entrusting me with their families' future. And I offer this last budget proposal more confident in their future than I have ever been before, and more excited than I have ever been to help build it.

Thank you very much.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks the members of the House to please remain seated for just a minute while the members of the Senate leave the hall of the House.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, this session is now adjourned.

The House will please be in order.

MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives this day, the 8th day of February 2022, will be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. Turning to caucus and committee announcements.

The Speaker recognizes the gentleman, the majority leader, for a Rules Committee announcement. The gentleman waives off.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Representative Dunbar, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Republicans will caucus at 1:30 in the majority caucus room; that is 1:30 in the majority caucus room. We will be prepared to be back on the floor at 2:30.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Representative Dan Miller, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. D. MILLER. Thank you. Democrats will caucus hybrid at 1:30.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. This House will stand in recess until 2:30 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. Turning to visitor recognition. Located in the gallery, the Chair is pleased to welcome Bill Slaymaker and his wife Coleen. They are residents of Horsham Township with an interest in serving children with special needs, and they are the guests of Representative Stephens. Welcome.

Located to the left of the rostrum, the Chair is pleased to welcome Representative Kail's son, Manny, who is up here visiting for the week. Welcome. Thank you for coming.

Also located in the gallery, the Chair is pleased to welcome Garrett Kilgore. He is a student at Millersville University. He is a constituent of Representative Jones but is currently attending school in the 100th Legislative District, that I had the privilege of representing, and he is shadowing me today. So welcome, Garrett.

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Speaker now recognizes the majority leader for a Rules Committee announcement.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We will be in the majority caucus room immediately upon receipt – pardon me, on recess, or whatever you decide to call it – for a Rules Committee meeting. Thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER. There will be an immediate meeting of the Rules Committee in the majority caucus room.

The House will be at ease while you go and have your Rules Committee meeting.

The House will return to order.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

The SPEAKER. The Speaker is in receipt of some additional Committee on Committees supplemental reports.

The following report was read:

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 8, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Guzman, Berks County, is elected a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

* * *

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 8, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Williams, Chester County, is elected a member of the Professional Licensure Committee, Representative Harkins, Erie County, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

* * *

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 8, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Mullins, Lackawanna County, is elected a member of the Professional Licensure Committee, Representative Burns, Cambria County, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

* * *

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 8, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Kosierowski, Lackawanna County, is elected a member of the Insurance Committee, Representative Mullins, Lackawanna County, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

* * *

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 7, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Welby, Lackawanna County, is elected a member of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, Representative Burns, Cambria County, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

* * *

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 7, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Shusterman, Chester County, is elected a member of the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, Representative Burns, Cambria County, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

* * *

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

In the House of Representatives,
February 7, 2022

Resolved that,

Representative Pisciotano, Allegheny County, is elected a member of the Consumer Affairs Committee, Representative Burns, Cambria County, resigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Joanna McClinton
Democratic Leader

On the question,
Will the House adopt the resolution?
Resolution was adopted.

**BILL ON CONCURRENCE
REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE**

HB 1082, PN 2714

By Rep. BENNINGHOFF

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in ARPA health care workforce supports, further providing for definitions; and providing for early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder.

RULES.

The SPEAKER. Turning to budgetary comments.

STATEMENT BY MR. BRADFORD

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Democratic Appropriations chairman, Chairman Bradford.

Mr. BRADFORD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to give some quick comments about the speech that we heard from our Governor today. We want to obviously begin by thanking the Governor. It has been 8 tumultuous years, and he has led our Commonwealth with a steady hand and we appreciate the job he has done.

He provided us today a financial report which is heartening – \$6.4 billion projected at the end of this year in the General Fund; \$3 billion in a Rainy Day Fund that once just saw a few hundred thousand dollars; and we still have \$2 billion, a little in excess of \$2 billion in Federal American recovery money still in the bank. Over \$11 billion of taxpayer money in the bank. So you would think that there would be some real optimism in the response to the Governor from the side opposite, but I have heard some of the early press, and I have to say, I was a little disappointed by the gloom and doom.

I know that they said, do not look at those financial numbers; in fact, do not believe your lying eyes, that this number is illusory and it will be gone in a flash. I have to say, I disagree. And the Governor has presented a very different vision that is in keeping with what House and Senate Democrats have discussed on numerous occasions, but there is some real distinction.

And I know my good friend, my counterpart, the gentleman from York, will come and speak with equal conviction about his view of Pennsylvania and our long-term challenges. So I want to go off and maybe make a little bit of a pre-rebuttal, maybe start addressing some of those issues before he gets the chance to say, we cannot afford it; not the right time; not now. There will never be a right time, I fear, for the good gentleman from York.

House Democrats, for the 8 years of Governor Wolf's administration, have talked about the need for adequate and equitable funding of education. This is an issue that affects every one of our school districts, every one of our legislative districts. There is not a member from northeast to northwest to southeast to southwest Pennsylvania that has not come on this floor and heralded their ideas to appropriately fund education. House Democrats, joined by this Governor, have said on numerous occasions, now is the right time. The argument put forth – in fact, I believe the counter put forth by our Republican friends – was that we cannot afford it right now. We do not have any money in the bank. So surprisingly, now, with \$11 billion, you would think the answer would be, now is the time. But the answer is, no, no, no, no; do not believe your lying eyes. Now is not the right time either. It begs the question of the majority, when is the right time to invest in Pennsylvania's children? How many generations of children are we going to shortchange in school districts like Reading and Allentown, but yet, in rural and western Pennsylvania as well? How long will we tell them, with \$11 billion in the bank, that we cannot afford to provide them the education they deserve?

In the building right across the street, there right now is a Commonwealth Court case challenging whether this legislative body is living up to its constitutional obligation to provide an appropriate level of education funding. We are almost certain to lose when that gets to our State's highest court, and this body will say, as it often does, that is not the purview of the court. Well, we have the chance today, while the sun is shining financially with \$11 billion in the bank, to drive the bus on this issue. If we are going to truly choose a path for how we fund schools appropriately this budget year – with these surpluses, with these recurring funds that are coming in because of our economy that we have worked so hard to rebuild – we have this opportunity now.

Now, again, as part of my pre-rebuttal, I suggest the gentleman will say, we have a structural deficit. We have long-term demographic challenges. I am going to concede something: He is not wrong. We do have long-term challenges. The question is, what is his solution? What is this majority's solution? House Democrats have broken from orthodoxy. We are not here offering any tax increase. We are offering business, business corporate tax cuts to tell every corner of Pennsylvania that Pennsylvania needs to be reopened for business, and we recognize that a CNI (corporate net income) of 9.99 percent stands in the face of rebuilding Pennsylvania's economy.

My Republican friends from the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania have their own proposal. I think it merits discussion. In a portion of the State that has been hemorrhaging population and has not seen the economic vitality that we would

want for every part of Pennsylvania, these folks recognize that 9.99 percent is a giant stop sign for investment in this Commonwealth. So progressive Democrats, moderate Democrats, Blue Dog Democrats, are unified in saying, now is the time, while making historic investments in education, to also look at our corporate net income tax.

Now, yes, that will take Republicans getting out of their comfort level as well. I understand the idea of add-backs seems too much. Let me tell you what add-backs are in the simplest terms for the average Pennsylvanian. When you file your tax return, it is not more taxes, Mr. Speaker. You know what it is? It is telling the tax cheats of Pennsylvania that we are no longer going to subsidize you paying zero taxes so that the right-minded businesses that are doing their fair share pay more in taxes to make up for tax cheats with their fancy accountants and their Delaware loophole sham corporations. That, my friend, is the alternative that Democrats are offering. We want to partner with the Chamber of Commerce and cut the CNI, and the time to do it is now, and they need to cut the [word stricken].

Now on spending, on the issue of spending in front of us, I have already heard about the 16-percent increase in spending. That is so disingenuous. Now, let us dig into the numbers. And I do not want to bore anyone with facts in this building, but let us talk about this \$6.2 billion of new spending; \$2.2 billion is because the Governor recognizes that the public health emergency that has been issued by the Federal government will likely end in the next fiscal year. My Republican friends have argued that is \$2.2 billion in new spending. Now, come on, Mr. Speaker. We all know that that is Federal FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages) money that will not come into this year's budget. You are wrong to argue that that is additional spending. It is the same Federal entitlement spending we do every year. It is a recognition that those funds will not come in.

And there is more. This new spending, \$167 million because we are making our pension payment or maybe the REHP (Retired Employees Health Program) restart, where instead of continuing to fund the employee trust fund, we are actually going to make our payment for \$103 million after a 2-year holiday. I think for those who have lived through the PSERS (Public School Employees' Retirement System) debacle, some of us recognizing taking holidays is not good, prudent management, and when you start to remake the payments, that is not called increasing spending; that is what we used to call conservative political philosophy.

Now, I could go on about these new spendings or such things as debt service increases, or maybe the \$141 million that is going to slip back in from the State Police so we no longer raid the Motor License Fund at times while bridges are collapsing and our infrastructure is falling apart – again, that is not just called prudent financial management; that is called putting Pennsylvania's union workers back to work and putting jobs back in Pennsylvania making sure bridges do not collapse.

Now, again, I do not want to go through this longer – and I promised one of my colleagues I would keep it at 5 minutes, and I am sure I already blew through that – but I just want my Republican friends to know that we have anticipated some of what they will push back on, but the one thing they should not push back on, the one thing that we need to work together on is a policy for growth for Pennsylvania.

We offer two tiers. The Governor has given you a full budget. We ask you to engage on two things: historic education investment, to invest in those kids in failing schools that are

underfunded, and those communities that are overtaxed – those communities that will not be able to rebuild and grow and those students who will never be able to reach their full potential because we failed to do our fullest. And in exchange, I will tell you, this caucus stands ready to have a conversation about how we tax companies and corporations in Pennsylvania. We want a pro-growth agenda, and we look forward to working with our Republican friends to achieve that. And yes, that is about cutting rates and broadening the base, and we look forward to working with our Republicans to make that happen for all Pennsylvanians.

Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

However, I will remind the remaining speakers that you are not to impugn the motives of individuals. I had let the gentleman continue; however, he did use the word "disingenuous." In addition to that, I would ask the clerk to please strike the reference to the profanity that the good gentleman inserted into the record, which is wholly inappropriate and in violation of our House rules.

STATEMENT BY MR. SAYLOR

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the Republican Appropriations chairman, Representative Saylor.

Mr. SAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I am glad my colleague of the Democratic Appropriations has learned how to try and keep businesses open since they spent 18 months closing them and bankrupting them.

Anyway, when we enacted the current budget last June, there was widespread agreement in this body and with the Governor and in the Senate that we needed to take a multiyear approach to our fiscal needs in Pennsylvania. Now the Governor seems to have drifted off into some fiscal fantasyland where there is zero concern for our financial footing after he is gone.

Now, the Governor's massive spending spree proposed today will squander the entirety of our reserves and leave the next Governor, whomever he or she may be, with a massive budget deficit and no reserves to combat it, and would guarantee a tax increase on our businesses and our working families of Pennsylvania.

Now let us take a specific look at this budget. The Governor has proposed a 16.6-percent spending increase over last year's budget, which we are currently in. That is a total of \$6.2 billion more. How much is \$6.2 billion, you ask? Well, it equates to \$17 million more dollars in State spending per day. And if you add it up in an annual increase, that means working families in Pennsylvania will spend \$1,055 more a year.

The Governor also proposes spending every penny of the remaining \$2.2 billion in Federal relief funds, even though the Federal government expects the States across our nation to spend those dollars over the next 4 years, and that is what we had originally planned to do here. So where is Tom Wolf who celebrated the fact that for the first time in his administration, we have healthy reserves?

Now, mind you, the Governor did not even sign three of the budgets enacted in the past 7 years, but recently he has been on a legacy tour taking credit for the increases in education funding and fiscal soundness that we put in place, and now he wants to squander everything away. In fact, he even uses voodoo math to try and hide the impact of his spending spree. It is a cover-up. The Governor uses arbitrary revenue and expenditures to try and

trick the public into believing his talking points, that he will actually leave a surplus for his successor. How can you spend everything and turn around and say you are leaving a surplus with a straight face? Seriously? Because he is using phony numbers.

The revenue estimates of his proposals are \$5 billion. Let me repeat that: \$5 billion higher than the IFO (Independent Fiscal Office), which just came out with their report. It is voodoo math. Then in the out-years, he presents disingenuous, low-expenditure projections for his next successor and this next General Assembly. After wanting to spend 16.6-percent more in the 22-23 budget, how much do you think the Governor shows in an increase in the next Governor's budget in 23-24 – the very next year after this budget? Well, it is only a \$100 million increase, or three-tenths of a percent.

There is not one member in this General Assembly who serves here today that has ever seen a budget of less than a 3-percent increase – never. Yet every year from here on out for the next 5 years, his projection is that no budget will increase by more than 1 percent. Now, I would love to contain that spending the Governor has shown, but the Governor's Budget Office has not, nor has he, offered any policies or changes that would help us achieve that kind of level of spending. And if we want to be intellectually honest, that would not even be enough to cover our pension and debt service – the increases there far surpass that – and not to mention the Department of Health and Human Services that seems to grow nearly by a billion dollars every year.

The truth, when you plug what the Governor presented today into the Independent Fiscal Office's estimates, is that the Governor is leaving the next Governor, and all of us, with nearly an \$800 million deficit. Well, not on my watch.

Let me get back to fiscal sanity and talk about a real budget that makes targeting investments while planning for our future and avoids setting ourselves up for a budget deficit and tax increases in the very next year. We in the House Republican Caucus have made a record of investments in our public schools, and I am sure we will again provide additional resources this coming budget for our public schools. However, one thing we need to answer is to the fact that roughly, right now roughly, sitting in the State Treasurer's Office, is \$5 billion of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money that this administration has yet to delve out to our 500 school districts. Of that \$5 billion signed by President Biden on March 21, still left unspent, only 2 percent of that has been spent so far. And I heard here yesterday comments about asbestos and lead paint. Well, apparently there is no desire by the Governor's Office to get that money out to take care of those problems. Working with our colleagues in the Senate, we will present a better and more responsive budget that puts together working needs of Pennsylvanians first and respect our taxpayers.

I want to point out one other thing that I think is important. Education is important to our children, and every parent cares about education. Well, I hope you have all taken a chance to look at the Independent Fiscal Office's audit and performance study of the Education Department. That report shows that there is no correlation in how much money you spend versus testing scores. We have low-spending school districts with high testing scores. We have high-spending schools with high testing scores, and vice versa, in all of those categories. It is not how much money you spend; it is how you spend it. And that is what I believe the taxpayers send us here for is accountability, to hold school boards and superintendents accountable how they spend the taxpayers' dollars.

Anyway, I do find it interesting that here we are in 2022 and the Governor is finally talking about reducing taxes instead of his normal proposals to increase them. We certainly would welcome a conversation to that, and I look forward to working with my colleagues here on both sides of the aisle and the Governor to discuss how we move forward in those talks, but not the Governor's made-up numbers. We need to talk about real numbers here.

My colleague on the other side of the aisle mentioned union jobs. I agree with him. I care about union jobs, everybody's jobs. But we have a Governor who has instituted a RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) that will cost union jobs and good-paying jobs in Pennsylvania. Anybody who does not realize that now needs to look elsewhere. You know, we cannot just talk it here; we have to walk it by the actions we take. And RGGI, RGGI is a job killer, and it kills our economy in Pennsylvania.

The Commonwealth has strong financial footing now because of the strong Republican leadership we have done here in the General Assembly. You know, massive budgets, fantasy budgets, and tax-increase proposals are not what taxpayers of Pennsylvania are looking for. We are not going to allow anybody to fritter away the money that the taxpayers have here.

We talk about Federal dollars and State tax dollars – they are – but guess what? Number one, they are taxpayers' dollars, and we are to be held accountable how we spend those dollars. I look forward to working with both sides of the aisle and with the Governor's Office to craft a budget that does not bankrupt this Commonwealth next session, next Governor. Whether it is a Democrat or Republican Governor, we have a responsibility in this General Assembly to make sure our taxpayers, our working families across this Commonwealth are not faced next year with a tax increase scaring more business out of Pennsylvania like we did with the \$3 billion steel plant in West Virginia or the \$20 billion semiconductor plant in Ohio.

We need to improve our economy, and the Governor is right that we need to look at tax cuts, but we have been saying that on this side of the aisle for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and look forward to working with everyone to craft a good budget for the people of Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the Democratic leader, Leader McClinton.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Parliamentary inquiry?

The SPEAKER. You may state your inquiry.

Ms. McCLINTON. I did not want to interrupt the previous speaker, but I do hope that the Speaker will admonish that speaker as he referenced His Excellency, the Governor, calling him disingenuous and trying to trick people, and that he should be more responsible.

The SPEAKER. I believe I was counseling your Appropriations chairman when he may have said that, so I apologize. But the fact does remain that we are to refer to one another in the appropriate terms, and in this case regarding the Governor, the discussion of motive and personality would also be inappropriate.

So again, I will ask both leaders before they speak to please abide by the rules. I know for myself, as Speaker, it does get quite tiring when individual members continue to rail against the guardrails again and again on the rules when they have been clearly counseled on what is and is not in bounds.

You are in order and may proceed.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. You do not wish to offer budgetary comments? The Chair thanks the lady.

Does the majority leader wish to offer any comments? Very good.

We will go to the active calendar.

CALENDAR

BILLS ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 1614, PN 1788**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code, in ballots, further providing for number of ballots to be printed and specimen ballots.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on second consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 2126, PN 2464**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to aviation, further providing for Aviation Restricted Account; and making a related repeal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on second consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

* * *

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 2216, PN 2582**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 74 (Transportation) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank and for Pennsylvania Infrastructure Bank Fund; and making related repeals.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the bill on second consideration?

Bill was agreed to.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to third consideration of **SB 739, PN 1378**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Commonwealth services, further providing for definitions and for assistance to fire companies and EMS companies; in grants to fire companies and emergency medical services companies,

establishing the Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program and providing for expiration of authority relating to Emergency Medical Services COVID-19 Recovery Grant Program; and making editorial changes.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the bill on third consideration?
Bill was agreed to.

(Bill analysis was read.)

The SPEAKER. This bill has been considered on three different days and agreed to and is now on final passage.
The question is, shall the bill pass finally?

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Boback, on final passage.

Ms. BOBACK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, which is SB 739, establishes the Pennsylvania Professional Fire Fighters Association, the PA Career Fire Chiefs Association, the Secretary of DCED (Department of Community and Economic Development) or designee, and the Secretary of DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) or their designee as a voting member of the application review committee for the State Fire and Emergency Medical Services Loan Program.

This is a follow-up SR 6 initiative, and in view of the law that we passed last session, this will allow career fire departments to receive loans under the State's 2-percent loan program. We are now providing them membership on the program's review committee, as we do other loan recipients.

In addition – and this is so important to listen to – this bill was amended to provide \$25 million in grant programs for our 911 emergency ambulances, which they so desperately need as the front line of our emergency medical system. So again, this also includes that \$25 million grant program for our 911 emergency ambulances.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members for an affirmative vote on SB 739. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the gentleman, Representative Causer, on final passage.

Mr. CAUSER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support SB 739. Our emergency medical services system in Pennsylvania really is in a state of crisis. The system was struggling before the pandemic, but the last 2 years have really caused problems for our emergency medical services system, and in rural Pennsylvania, in many ways, the system is falling apart.

Our emergency medical services personnel are struggling with a lack of personnel and a lack of funding, and SB 739, as amended by the House Appropriations Committee, provides \$25 million in grant funding for these dedicated professionals. This grant funding will help with recruitment and retention. It will help with equipment and training. It will help with debt reduction that they might have and revenue loss that they have encountered.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 800 agencies across the Commonwealth will be eligible for this funding, and I hope that you will join with me to support this vital funding for our lifesaving emergency medical services professionals.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentleman, Leader Benninghoff, on final passage.
Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will not be long, but first of all, I want to put a shout-out to those people who are serving us in the fields in the EMS world. We are very blessed in this county and in this State. As you know, many of these people are doing this on a voluntary basis as well.

We forget that the reimbursement rate through Medicare-Medicaid predominately is about 70 percent of these people's funding, and unfortunately, it is a very poor rate. That in mind, this will be a great influx to hopefully keep some of these systems open.

I think the Policy chairman outlined it pretty well. The significant impact all across Pennsylvania, but specifically in rural Pennsylvania, for some it is a matter of 25, 30 miles from that ambulance responding to no health care. In order to get them to acute care facilities, if we do not have these types of in-the-field agencies available, people are going to be in deep trouble and not have the access to the care that they need in an acute crisis.

So I commend our members. This should be a good unanimous, bipartisan vote.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time, and we thank the chair for its work on this bill.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

On the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the good gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the good lady.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—200

Armanini	Frankel	Longietti	Rigby
Benham	Freeman	Mackenzie, M.	Roae
Benninghoff	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rossi
Bernstine	Galloway	Madden	Rothman
Bizzarro	Gaydos	Major	Rowe
Boback	Gillen	Mako	Rozzi
Bonner	Gillespie	Malagari	Ryan
Borowicz	Gleim	Maloney	Sainato
Boyle	Gregory	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Greiner	Marshall	Sanchez
Briggs	Grove	Masser	Sankey
Brooks	Guenst	Matzie	Sappey
Brown, A.	Guzman	McClinton	Saylor
Brown, R.	Hamm	McNeill	Schemel
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mehaffie	Schlossberg
Burgos	Harkins	Mentzer	Schmitt

Burns	Harris	Mercuri	Schroeder
Carroll	Heffley	Merski	Schweyer
Causer	Helm	Metcalfe	Shusterman
Cephas	Hennessey	Metzgar	Silvis
Ciresi	Herrin	Mihalek	Sims
Conklin	Hershey	Millard	Smith
Cook	Hickernell	Miller, B.	Snyder
Cox	Hohenstein	Miller, D.	Solomon
Cruz	Howard	Mizgorski	Sonney
Culver	Innamorato	Moul	Staats
Curry	Irvin	Mullery	Stambaugh
Daley	Isaacson	Mullins	Stephens
Davanzo	James	Mustello	Struzzi
Davis, A.	Jones	Neilson	Sturla
Davis, T.	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Thomas
Dawkins	Kail	Nelson, N.	Tomlinson
Day	Kaufner	O'Mara	Topper
Deasy	Kauffman	O'Neal	Twardzik
DeLissio	Keefer	Oberlander	Vitali
Delloso	Kenyatta	Ortitay	Warner
Delozier	Kerwin	Otten	Warren
DelRosso	Kim	Owlett	Webster
DeLuca	Kinhead	Parker	Welby
Diamond	Kinsey	Pashinski	Wentling
Dowling	Kirkland	Peifer	Wheeland
Driscoll	Klunk	Pennycuik	White
Dunbar	Knowles	Pickett	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kosierowski	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Krajewski	Polinchock	Young
Evans	Krueger	Puskaric	Zabel
Farry	Kulik	Quinn	Zimmerman
Fee	Labs	Rabb	
Fiedler	Lawrence	Rader	Cutler,
Fitzgerald	Lee	Rapp	Speaker
Flood	Lewis		

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the bill passed finally.

Ordered, That the clerk return the same to the Senate with the information that the House has passed the same with amendment in which the concurrence of the Senate is requested.

SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR A

**BILL ON CONCURRENCE
IN SENATE AMENDMENTS**

The House proceeded to consideration of concurrence in Senate amendments to **HB 1082, PN 2714**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in ARPA health care workforce supports, further providing for definitions; and providing for early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder.

On the question,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. Moved by the gentlewoman, Representative DelRosso, that the House concur in the amendments inserted by the Senate.

The Chair now recognizes the Representative for a brief description of Senate amendments.

Ms. DeLROSSO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment offered a clarification for high medical assistance hospitals. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

On the question recurring,
Will the House concur in Senate amendments?

The SPEAKER. Agreeable to the provisions of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentlewoman, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—200

Armanini	Frankel	Longiatti	Rigby
Benham	Freeman	Mackenzie, M.	Roae
Benninghoff	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rossi
Bernstine	Galloway	Madden	Rothman
Bizzarro	Gaydos	Major	Rowe
Boback	Gillen	Mako	Rozzi
Bonner	Gillespie	Malagari	Ryan
Borowicz	Gleim	Maloney	Sainato
Boyle	Gregory	Markosek	Samuelson
Bradford	Greiner	Marshall	Sanchez
Briggs	Grove	Masser	Sankey
Brooks	Guenst	Matzie	Sapppey
Brown, A.	Guzman	McClinton	Saylor
Brown, R.	Hamm	McNeill	Schemel
Bullock	Hanbidge	Mehaffie	Schlossberg
Burgos	Harkins	Mentzer	Schmitt
Burns	Harris	Mercuri	Schroeder
Carroll	Heffley	Merski	Schweyer
Causer	Helm	Metcalfe	Shusterman
Cephas	Hennessey	Metzgar	Silvis
Ciresi	Herrin	Mihalek	Sims
Conklin	Hershey	Millard	Smith
Cook	Hickernell	Miller, B.	Snyder
Cox	Hohenstein	Miller, D.	Solomon
Cruz	Howard	Mizgorski	Sonney
Culver	Innamorato	Moul	Staats
Curry	Irvin	Mullery	Stambaugh
Daley	Isaacson	Mullins	Stephens
Davanzo	James	Mustello	Struzzi
Davis, A.	Jones	Neilson	Sturla
Davis, T.	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Thomas
Dawkins	Kail	Nelson, N.	Tomlinson
Day	Kaufner	O'Mara	Topper
Deasy	Kauffman	O'Neal	Twardzik
DeLissio	Keefer	Oberlander	Vitali
Delloso	Kenyatta	Ortitay	Warner
Delozier	Kerwin	Otten	Warren
DelRosso	Kim	Owlett	Webster
DeLuca	Kinhead	Parker	Welby
Diamond	Kinsey	Pashinski	Wentling
Dowling	Kirkland	Peifer	Wheeland

Driscoll	Klunk	Pennycuik	White
Dunbar	Knowles	Pickett	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kosierowski	Pisciottano	Williams, D.
Emrick	Krajewski	Polinchock	Young
Evans	Krueger	Puskaric	Zabel
Farry	Kulik	Quinn	Zimmerman
Fee	Labs	Rabb	
Fiedler	Lawrence	Rader	Cutler,
Fitzgerald	Lee	Rapp	Speaker
Flood	Lewis		

NAYS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—0

The majority required by the Constitution having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the amendments were concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

BILL SIGNED BY SPEAKER

Bill numbered and entitled as follows having been prepared for presentation to the Governor, and the same being correct, the title was publicly read as follows:

HB 1082, PN 2714

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in ARPA health care workforce supports, further providing for definitions; and providing for early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder.

Whereupon, the Speaker, in the presence of the House, signed the same.

VOTE CORRECTION

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentlewoman for a correction of the record, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is a correction of the record on HB 19 on final passage. The gentelady from Northumberland County, Representative Culver, was recorded in the negative and should have been recorded in the positive.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

BILLS RECOMMITTED

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that the following bills be recommitted to the Committee on Appropriations:

HB 1614;
HB 2126; and
HB 2216.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

BILLS REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that the following bills be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar:

HB 637;
HB 1792;
HB 1957;
HB 2068;
HB 2073;
HB 2159;
HB 2269; and
HB 2315.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

BILL REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that HB 802 be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

BILL TABLED

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that HB 802 be removed from the active calendar and placed on the tabled calendar.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

CALENDAR CONTINUED

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

The House proceeded to second consideration of **HB 1587, PN 1761**, entitled:

An Act amending Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, providing for arrests of previously convicted persons possessing firearms in a subsequent offense; and, in sentencing, providing for sentences for previously convicted persons possessing firearms in a subsequent offense.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the bill on second consideration?

BILL TABLED

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that HB 1587 be removed from the active calendar and placed on the tabled calendar.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

BILL REMOVED FROM TABLE

The SPEAKER. The majority leader moves that HB 1587 be removed from the tabled calendar and placed on the active calendar.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. For the information of the members, there will be no further votes on the floor today.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING

The SPEAKER. The Speaker recognizes the gentleman, Representative Hennessey, for a committee announcement.

Mr. HENNESSEY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just to remind the members of the House Transportation Committee, we will have a meeting tomorrow at 10:30 in G-50 of the Irvis Office Building to rerefer HB 1244 to the Education Committee. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The House Transportation Committee will meet tomorrow at 10:30 in G-50 of the Irvis Office Building.

Seeing no further committee or caucus announcements.

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all remaining bills and resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Speaker is in receipt of a motion made by the gentleman, Representative Smith, who does move that this House do now adjourn until Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 11 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,
Will the House agree to the motion?
Motion was agreed to, and at 3:26 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.