

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the bill on third consideration?

Senator MELLOW offered the following amendment No. A2044:

Amend Sec. 1 (Sec. 326), page 2, line 14, by striking out "approval" and inserting: review

Amend Sec. 1 (Sec. 326), page 2, lines 16 through 19, by striking out "If, after" in line 16, all of lines 17 through 19 and inserting: The respective committees shall have 60 days to review the program and submit comments to the commission. Prior to completion of the review by the respective committees, the commission shall not take any action to initiate the program.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

It was agreed to.

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

BILL ON CONCURRENCE IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SENATE CONCURS IN HOUSE AMENDMENTS AS AMENDED

SB 284 (Pr. No. 2205) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, authorizing an exclusion from taxation of a portion of the assessed value of homestead property.

On the question,

Will the Senate concur in House amendments, as amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 284?

Senator LOEPER. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do concur in House amendments, as amended by the Senate, to Senate Bill No. 284.

On the question,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Blair, Senator Jubelirer.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Mr. President, I just want to underline the significance of the bill I have asked us to concur in. The measure provides for a constitutional amendment allowing for a homestead exemption on property taxes.

Mr. President, for as long as I have been a Member of this body, property tax relief has been an issue. There is growing optimism, though, that we are drawing closer to developing some acceptable answers to the overall issue. It is necessary, concrete, deadline-driven, and a step forward. To make property tax relief available to most people, a homestead exemption is absolutely essential. It is the fairest, most practical way to provide property tax relief to homeowners and avoids creating a windfall for the owners of commercial property. It targets relief while allaying concerns about shifts and tax burden. Given this tool, Mr. President, local officials could offer homeowners the chance to have a portion of the assessed value of their homes exempted from taxation. People understand the

real advantages of a homestead exemption, which is what other States offer such an option.

The Senate has passed such measures before with bipartisan backing, and our action today can make the first-round tentative approval a certainty with the expected concurrence of the House of Representatives. The next General Assembly will give a second round approval in 1997 and have the question presented to the voters of Pennsylvania for their approval.

Mr. President, this measure is absolutely vital in providing an answer to a major public worry, unfair property taxes, something that we will deal with now and in legislation in the future.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I urge a positive vote on this motion.

And the question recurring,

Will the Senate agree to the motion?

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

YEAS—49

Afflerbach	Greenleaf	Mellow	Shaffer
Andrezeski	Hart	Mowery	Stapleton
Armstrong	Heckler	Musto	Stewart
Belan	Helfrick	O'Pake	Stout
Bell	Holl	Peterson	Tartaglione
Bodack	Hughes	Piccola	Thompson
Brightbill	Jubelirer	Porterfield	Tilghman
Corman	Kasunic	Punt	Tomlinson
Costa	LaValle	Rhoades	Uliana
Delp	Lemmond	Robbins	Wagner
Fisher	Loeper	Salvatore	Wenger
Fumo	Madigan	Schwartz	Williams
Gerlach			

NAYS—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 inform the House of Representatives accordingly.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS SUPPLEMENTAL CALENDAR No. 1

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

HB 216 (Pr. No. 3900) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 27, 1905 (P. L. 312), entitled "An act creating a Department of Health, and defining powers and duties," further providing for organization and administrative powers and duties; and making repeals.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been previously required by the Constitution,

On the question,

Shall the bill pass finally?