# THE GOVERNOR

#### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

Proclamation; House Bill No. 1300, Printer's No. 1869

I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have caused this Proclamation to issue and, in compliance with the provisions of Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby give notice that I have filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with my objections thereto, the following bill passed by both houses of the General Assembly at the Regular Session of 2021-2022:

House Bill No. 1300, Printer's No. 1869, entitled "An Act [a]mending the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L. 1333, No.320), entitled 'An act concerning elections, including general, municipal, special and primary elections, the nomination of candidates, primary and election expenses and election contests; creating and defining membership of county boards of elections; imposing duties upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth, courts, county boards of elections, county commissioners; imposing penalties for violation of the act, and codifying, revising and consolidating the laws relating thereto; and repealing certain acts and parts of acts relating to elections,' as follows: in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions, providing for legislative authority over elections, establishing the Bureau of Election Audits and providing for special standing in challenges to the Election Code; in the Secretary of the Commonwealth, further providing for powers and duties of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and providing for reports on implementation of elections; in county boards of elections, further providing for powers and duties of county boards and providing for county boards of elections and satellite offices; in district election officers, further providing for qualifications of election officers, for compensation of district election officers and for appointment of watchers; providing for registration of electors; in ballots, further providing for form of official election ballot and for number of ballots to be printed and specimen ballots; in voting machines, further providing for examination and approval of voting machines by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, for requirements of voting machines, for preparation of voting machines by county election boards and for delivery of voting machines and supplies by county election boards to election officers; in electronic voting systems, further providing for experimental use of electronic voting systems and for statistical sample and providing for requirements of accessible voting machines; in voting apparatus bonds, providing for voting system defects, disclosure, investigations and penalties; in preparation for and conduct of primaries and elections, providing for voter's bill of rights, for senior voter's bill of rights, for disabled voter's bill of rights and further providing for time for opening and closing polls, for manner of applying to vote, persons entitled to vote, voter's certificates, entries to be made in district register, numbered lists of voters and challenges and for deadline for receipt of valid voter registration application; in voting by qualified absentee electors, further providing for applications for official absentee ballots, for date of application for absentee ballot, for delivering or mailing ballots, for voting by absentee electors, providing for supervised voting by qualified absentee electors in certain facilities and further providing for canvassing of official absentee ballots and mail-in ballots; in voting by qualified mail-in electors, further providing for applications for official mail-in ballots, for date of application for mail-in ballot, for delivering or mailing ballots and for voting by mail-in electors; in Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board, further providing for Pennsylvania Election Law Advisory Board; providing for early voting by qualified electors; in returns of primaries and elections, further providing for returns to be open to public inspection and exceptions and for computation of returns by county board, certification and issuance of certificates of election;

in recounts and contest, providing for powers and duties of the Attorney General relating to elections; in penalties, further providing for disobeying lawful instructions, for perjury, for false affidavits of candidates, for refusal to permit inspection of papers, destruction or removal and Secretary of the Commonwealth, for refusal to permit inspection of papers, destruction or removal and county boards of elections, for insertion and alteration of entries in documents, removal and refusal to deliver, for refusal to permit overseers, watchers, attorneys or candidates to act, for driving away watchers, attorneys, candidates or overseers, for refusal to permit election officers, clerks and machine inspectors to act and driving away said persons, for refusal to administer oath and acting without being sworn, for violation of oath of office by election officers, for peace officers, failure to render assistance and hindering or delaying county board members and others, for nomination petitions and papers and offenses by signers, for false signatures and statements in nomination petitions and papers, for nomination petitions, certificates and papers, destruction, fraudulent filing and suppression, for offenses by printers of ballots, for unlawful possession of ballots and counterfeiting ballots, for forging and destroying ballots, for tampering with voting machines, for destroying, defacing or removing notices, et cetera, for police officers at polling places and for peace officer, failure to quell disturbances at polls, hindering or delaying election officers and others, for election officers permitting unregistered electors to vote, challenges and refusing to permit qualified electors to vote, for election officers refusing to permit elector to vote in proper party at primaries, for frauds by election officers, for prying into ballots, for interference with primaries and elections, frauds and conspiracy, for persons interfering in other districts, for assault and battery at polls, for unlawful assistance in voting, for election officers permitting unlawful assistance, for failure to keep and return record of assisted voters, for unlawful voting, for elector voting ballot of wrong party at primary, for repeat voting at elections, for removing ballots, for commissioners to take soldiers' votes, for fraudulent voting by soldiers, for bribery at elections, for receipts and disbursements of primary and election expenses by persons other than candidates and treasurers, for receipts of primary and election expenses by unauthorized persons, for contributions by corporations or unincorporated associations, for failure to file expense account, for prohibiting duress and intimidation of voters and interference with the free exercise of the elective franchise, for failure to perform duty, for hindering or delaying performance of duty, for violation of any provision of act, for violations of provisions relating to absentee and mail-in ballots and providing for unlawful collection of ballots and prohibiting duress and intimidation of elections officials; providing for reimbursements and withholding; and making a related repeal.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the County of Dauphin, this thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-fifth.

Governor

Attest:

JONATHAN M. MARKS,

Tan Wolf

Deputy Secretary for Elections and Commissions

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1109. Filed for public inspection July 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

#### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

#### Proclamation; Senate Bill No. 255, Printer's No. 971

I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have caused this Proclamation to issue and, in compliance with the provisions of Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby give notice that I have filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with my objections thereto, a copy of the disapproved portion of the following bill passed by both houses of the General Assembly at the Regular Session of 2021-2022:

Senate Bill No. 255, Printer's No. 971, entitled "An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020."

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the County of Dauphin, this thirtieth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-fifth.

Governor

Attest:

JONATHAN M. MARKS,

Tan Wolf

Deputy Secretary for Elections and Commissions

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1110. Filed for public inspection July 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

Proclamation; Senate Bill No. 516, Printer's No. 802

I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have caused this Proclamation to issue and, in compliance with the provisions of Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby give notice that I have filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with my objections thereto, the following bill passed by both houses of the General Assembly at the Regular Session of 2021-2022:

Senate Bill No. 516, Printer's No. 802, entitled "An Act [a]mending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the *Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, in sentencing, further providing for payment of court costs, restitution and fines."

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the County of Dauphin, this first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-six.

Governor

Attest:

SARI STEVENS, Executive Deputy Secretary Department of State

Tan Wolf

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1111. Filed for public inspection July 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

#### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

#### Proclamation; Senate Bill No. 618, Printer's No. 945

I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have caused this Proclamation to issue and, in compliance with the provisions of Section 15 of Article IV of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, do hereby give notice that I have filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, with my objections thereto, the following bill passed by both houses of the General Assembly at the Regular Session of 2021-2022:

Senate Bill No. 618, Printer's No. 945, entitled "An Act [a]mending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the *Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, providing for vaccinations and for disease prevention and control."

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth, at the County of Dauphin, this first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and forty-six.

Governor

Attest:

SARI STEVENS, Executive Deputy Secretary Department of State

I an Wolf

 $[Pa.B.\ Doc.\ No.\ 21\text{-}1112.\ Filed\ for\ public\ inspection\ July\ 16,\ 2021,\ 9:00\ a.m.]$ 

## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

# Notice of Veto; House Bill 1300, Printer's Number 1869

June 30, 2021

To the Honorable House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 1300, Printer's Number 1869.

Pennsylvania had a free, fair, and secure election in November 2020 with record turnout, in which people embraced mail-in voting, and the results have been confirmed by two statewide audits. These results are a testament to the robustness of our existing election system, but also the many hard working local officials who conduct our elections in an earnest and transparent way. While the bill includes some potential areas of improvement—such as giving counties more time to pre-canvass, increasing poll worker pay, and expanding the use of electronic poll books—the legislation is incurably riddled with unacceptable barriers to voting, including:

- Imposing additional voter identification restrictions similar to those already found unconstitutional by Pennsylvania courts;
- Limiting mail-in voting by creating excessive and burdensome requirements;
- Requiring an arbitrary signature match for mail-in ballots without a thorough system to cure; and
- Eliminating the use of ballot drop boxes by creating onerous requirements on ballot delivery locations with which counties will be unable to comply.

The legislation also rolls back significant bipartisan improvements made in Act 77 of 2019, the landmark election reform enacted last session, by:

- Reducing the number of days to register to vote by moving the deadline back to 30 days before an election, which would be among the most restrictive deadlines in the nation;
- Eliminating the convenient annual option to be sent a mail-in ballot for each election; and
- Eliminating the option to go to a county election office and apply for and receive a mail-in ballot in the same visit.

This bill is ultimately not about improving access to voting or election security, but about restricting the freedom to vote. If adopted, it would threaten to disrupt election administration, undermine faith in government, and invite costly, time-consuming, and destabilizing litigation. Instead of trying to silence the voices of some Pennsylvanians, we should build on the bipartisan achievements of Act 77 of 2019. To that end, I am willing to engage in good faith to refine our shared priorities, and work to find common ground in areas where we do not currently have agreement. I am committed to working sincerely towards legislation that supports voter access and can be passed on a bipartisan basis in the fall.

Until that time, for the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 1300, Printer's Number 1869.

Sincerely,

Tan Wolf

Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1113. Filed for public inspection July 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

## **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

# Notice of Veto; Senate Bill No. 255, Printer's No. 971

June 30, 2021

To The Honorable Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 16 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning this appropriation bill, Senate Bill 255, Printer's Number 971, to your chamber.

In a separate action today, I informed the House of Representatives that I am withholding my signature from House Bill 1300, Printers Number 1869. Accordingly, I am also compelled to withhold my approval from a corresponding allocation of funding to the Office of the Auditor General intended to facilitate the establishment and operation of a Bureau of Election Audits.

For these reasons, I return the bill to your chamber partially approved and signed. The bill is approved with the exception of the item listed below:

SECTION 205. Auditor General.

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For the Department of the Auditor General for postauditing annually, periodically or specially, the affairs of any department, board, or commission which is supported out of the General Fund, district justices, other fining offices, volunteer firemen's relief association funds and the offices of statewide elected officials and for the proper auditing of appropriations for or relating to public assistance, including any federal sums supplementing such appropriations.

State Appropriation...... 41,441,000

This item is approved in the sum of \$38,341,000.

Sincerely,

Tan Wolf

Governor

 $[Pa.B.\ Doc.\ No.\ 21\text{-}1114.\ Filed\ for\ public\ inspection\ July\ 16,\ 2021,\ 9\text{:}00\ a.m.]$ 

#### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

Notice of Veto; Senate Bill No. 516, Printer's No. 802

July 1, 2021

To the Honorable Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 516, Printer's Number 802.

This legislation seeks to solve the real issue of collecting court costs from those who have the ability to pay, but unfortunately could result in disproportionately harming indigent defendants. This bill allows a court to turn over debt owed from court costs, fines, and restitution to a private collection agency, who may add up to a 25% surcharge, when the defendant does not appear at a financial determination hearing. The purpose of a

financial determination hearing is for the court to review a defendant's financial situation and determine whether the payments should be made in installments. The court will account for the defendant's ability to make restitution and reparations and weigh the burden the payment will impose on the defendant. This bill would remove that safeguard if the defendant fails to appear at the financial determination hearing, regardless of whether that failure to appear is willful or non-willful. In many instances, the financial determination hearings will occur long after a person has completed probation or parole, moved, relocated, or otherwise fulfilled their obligations to the court, and the notice to appear is often sent to out-of-date addresses.

This bill attempts to solve the problem of financially able defendants willfully skipping the determination hearing to evade collection of their debt. However, without a financial determination hearing, defendants who do not have the ability to pay will be treated the same as those who do. This would result in indigent defendants being disproportionately affected in other aspects of their lives. While I strongly recognize that victims should have every effort made to collect restitution on their behalf, this bill does not delineate between those defendants with an ability to pay versus those that do not. Court-ordered debt can linger for years and impact credit scores, limit access to housing, employment, and other benefits, including the ability to secure a pardon.

A more holistic approach is needed to both increase a court's ability to collect fees from those who have the ability to pay while also protecting indigent defendants. Pennsylvania is one of two states that require local government to fund and administer indigent services. The creation of an Office of Indigent Defense is one proposal that I have put forth that would protect these vulnerable defendants. Unfortunately, this proposal did not receive funding in this year's budget. I appreciate that this bill is attempting to solve a legitimate problem faced by the counties; however, I believe it warrants more thorough consideration to protect indigent defendants.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 516, Printer's Number 802.

Sincerely,

Tan Wolf

Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1115. Filed for public inspection July 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]

#### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE**

Notice of Veto; Senate Bill 618, Printer's Number 945

July 1, 2021

To the Honorable Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 618, Printer's Number 945.

This legislation is contradictory, misguided and irresponsible. This bill prohibits basic public health measures, which are necessary to curb infectious disease transmission and save lives. Specifically, the bill elimi-

nates the Department of Health's ability to take disease control measures for any future contagious disease, resulting in the inability to contain the spread of infectious diseases in the Commonwealth or long after the current pandemic is over.

While the provisions of this legislation put all commonwealth residents at risk, individuals who are vulnerable to infectious diseases, such as residents of long-term care facilities, are at an even greater risk if the authority to mitigate transmission of infectious diseases is eliminated. In addition, persons of all ages with medical conditions and immunosuppressed systems are put at greater risk under this bill. As we have seen with COVID-19 and other disease outbreaks, public health response measures are critical in saving lives of vulnerable residents. Health orders are needed to provide direction to health care providers, medical facilities, patients, and those likely exposed to a disease during a pandemic.

Alongside Pennsylvania's nation-leading vaccine rollout, universal masking, distancing, and worker safety orders have been instrumental in fighting COVID-19 in Pennsylvania. Short-sighted legislation to tie the hands of people dedicated to public health will only make infectious diseases more difficult to fight.

Finally, this bill limits the Department of Health's ability to collect vaccine and immunization information for the Commonwealth's Statewide Immunization Information System. This would prevent medical providers and the public from having access to vital information on vaccination rates and vaccine efficacy.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 618, Printer's Number 945.

Sincerely,

Tan Wolf

Governor

[Pa.B. Doc. No. 21-1116. Filed for public inspection July 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m.]