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## LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



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## Robert W. Mercuri

Pennsylvania Representative, HD-028 (R)

[freedomindex.us/10068/](https://freedomindex.us/10068/)



## PA Legislative Scorecard 2024: 33%

✓ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional — Did not Vote **Vote**

**1. "Open Primary" Elections:** Would let registered voters with no political party affiliation vote in primary elections.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **No** · HB976 · 10/21/2024

**2. Funding State-Aided Universities:** Provides funding for several state-related universities (Penn State, Pitt, Temple, and Lincoln) and a private Ivy League university (Penn).



Estimated Cost per household: **-\$123.00/year.**

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB613 · 07/11/2024

**3. Carbon Capture and Sequestration Act:** Authorizes carbon sequestration projects to reduce "greenhouse gas emissions" and empowers the state Department of Environmental Protection to designate "environmental justice" areas based on "demographic, economic, health and environmental data."



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB831 · 07/11/2024

**4. Driver's Licenses for Illegal Aliens:** Would allow a person who is 16 or 17 years of age and meets the definition of "homeless children and youths" under federal law to use a temporary address, along with the signature of a "teacher," "social worker," or "caseworker," when applying for a driver's license or identification card.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB127 · 07/02/2024

**5. "Morning-After" Pill Mandate:** Would require health benefit plans to cover all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and adult male or adult female sterilization surgery.



Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB1140 · 06/25/2024

**6. Ban on "Ghost Guns":** Would amend the Uniform Firearms Act to prohibit the purchase, sale, and production of firearm or firearm parts without serial numbers. 

Constitutional: **No** · Cast: **No** · HB777 · 03/27/2024

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# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. "Open Primary" Elections

HB976 would let registered voters with no political party affiliation vote in primary elections.

This bill would weaken election integrity by creating "open primary" elections. In an "open primary," any registered voter is permitted to vote in any political party's primary. It wreaks havoc by allowing a candidate to potentially win their party's nomination without the support of a plurality of their party. "Open primaries" prevent freedom of association by denying members of political parties the right to choose from among themselves the candidates who they deem best represent their platforms and principles.

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## 2. Funding State-Aided Universities

HB613 provides funding for several state-related universities and a private Ivy League university.

Funding higher education is not the role of government. This bill only extends the state's monopoly over K-12 education and beyond. It exchanges public subsidies for postsecondary curriculum and other regulatory controls. Public colleges and universities can and should at least be privatized, without the need to rely on state appropriations. Neither academic nor financial freedom can be achieved by forcing other citizens to furnish their hard-earned tax dollars to fund all that now entails a failing and government-run education system.

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## 3. Carbon Capture and Sequestration Act

SB831 authorizes carbon sequestration projects and empowers the state Department of Environmental Protection to designate "environmental justice" areas.

The expansion of carbon capture storage systems in the United States is closely connected to the UN's 2030 Agenda for "sustainable development," which seeks to codify extreme "environmental justice" measures into state law. Its push for a "decarbonized" economy on behalf of "vulnerable populations" is nothing other than a fanatical attempt by globalist elites to expand their taxing power and authority. The abuse of eminent domain for these carbon dioxide pipelines encroaches upon the constitutionally protected property rights of Pennsylvanians, particularly those who live in the majority rural parts of the Commonwealth. The States must reject the hoax of "climate change" and put an end to the global war on farmers.

## 4. Driver's Licenses for Illegal Aliens

HB127 would allow a person who is 16 or 17 years of age and meets the definition of "homeless children and youths" under federal law to use a temporary address, along with the signature of a "teacher," "social worker," or "caseworker," when applying for a driver's license, learner's permit, or identification card.

The term "homeless children and youths," as defined by 42 U.S.C. Chapter 119, does not exclude persons unlawfully present in the United States. Illegal aliens ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Pennsylvania, let alone be considered eligible for government-issued forms of identification or licenses. Rather than pursue blatantly anti-American policies that undermine the rule of law and erode the value of citizenship, each of the several States should use its sovereign powers reserved under the 10th Amendment to stop illegal migration and provide for the public safety.

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## 5. "Morning-After" Pill Mandate

HB1140 would require health benefit plans to cover all FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and adult male or adult female sterilization surgery.

Hormonal birth control drugs and devices, particularly high-dose "morning-after" pills, can and do prevent uterine implantation of developing preborn children, causing them to function not only as "contraceptives," but also as abortifacients, thereby resulting in "silent abortions." Given that the care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government, Pennsylvania ought to forbid abortion and other grotesque methods of population control entirely, upholding the sanctity of life for every person. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and "unalienable" right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

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## 6. Ban on "Ghost Guns"

HB777 would amend the Uniform Firearms Act to prohibit the purchase, sale, and production of firearm or firearm parts without serial numbers.

This blatantly unconstitutional bill seeks to eliminate so-called "ghost guns," which do not have a state or federally traceable serial number. Both the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment protect the rights of law-abiding Pennsylvanians to possess, produce, purchase, or sell their own "private property," such as homemade firearms created for the purpose of self-defense, without needing to be "licensed" by the government. In fact, the Second Amendment specifically guarantees, under no qualification, that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."