



# Unfair rules slam the door on bipartisan solutions.

Pennsylvania's legislative process is broken. Let's change that.

- **How bills progress through legislature**
- **Who / When can bills be blocked**
- **Review past legislative performance**
- **Review 2025 legislative performance**
- **Three examples of successful bills 2023-24**
- **Examples of continued bill failures**
- **Collaborative rules in other states**

# Bill Progress - House and Senate Similar

Automatic	Referred to Committee (amendments, possible)
	Reported from Committee
Automatic	<b>FIRST</b> consideration
	Laid on the table
	Removed from table and placed on calendar
	<b>SECOND</b> consideration (amendments, possible)
	Re-committed to Appropriations (for a Fiscal Note)
	Re-reported from Appropriations (amendments possible)
	<b>THIRD</b> consideration / final passage (typically same TIME, Senate amendments possible)

# Progress that can be BLOCKED

Automatic	Referred to Committee (amendments, possible)
	<b>Reported from Committee</b>
Automatic	First consideration
	Laid on the table
	<b>Removed from table and placed on calendar</b>
	<b>Second consideration (amendments, possible)</b>
	Re-committed to Appropriations (for a Fiscal Note)
	<b>Re-reported from Appropriations (amendments possible)</b>
	<b>Third consideration / final passage (typically same day, Senate amendments possible)</b>

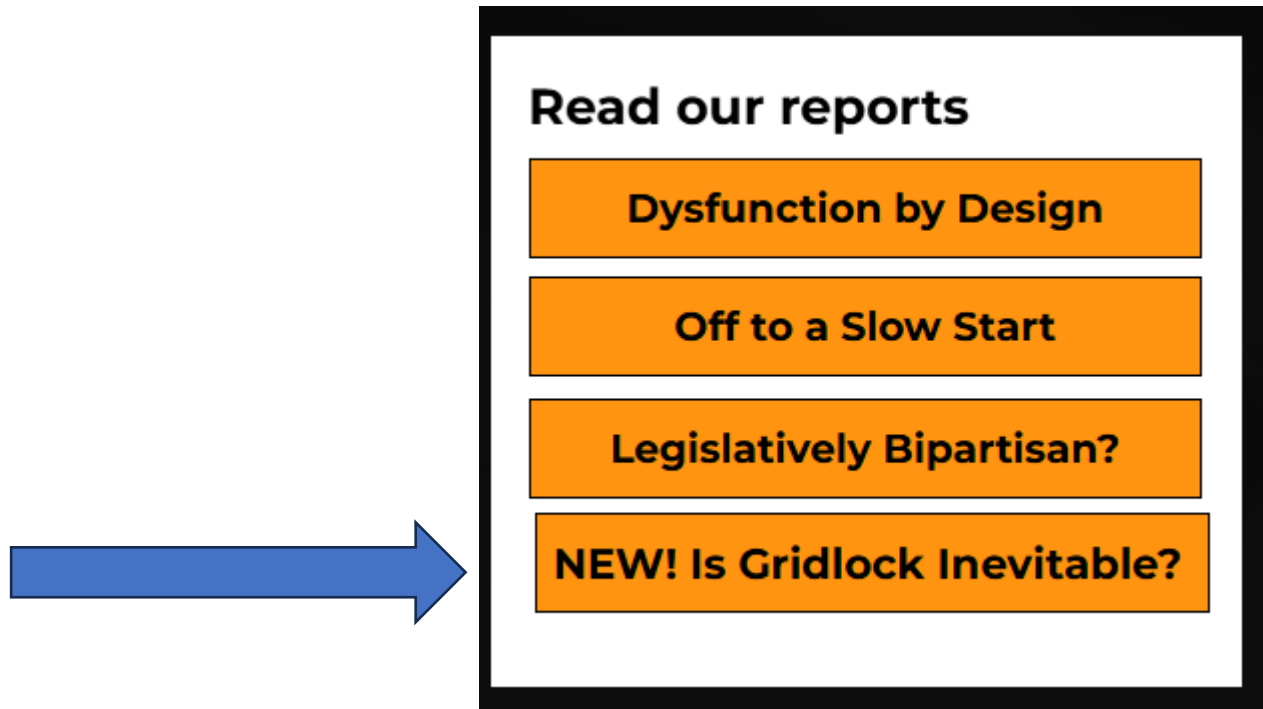
Any one of 6 majority party leaders can block any bill, at any time.

Regardless of legislative support - Regardless of public support

1. House Committee Chair
2. House Majority Leader - *Each represents just <0.5%*
3. Speaker of the House
  
4. Senate Committee Chair
5. Senate Majority Leader - *Each represents just 2%*
6. Senate President

**Operating rules allow partisan gatekeepers to control the agenda, block reform and shut out our voices in Harrisburg.**

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**Read our reports**

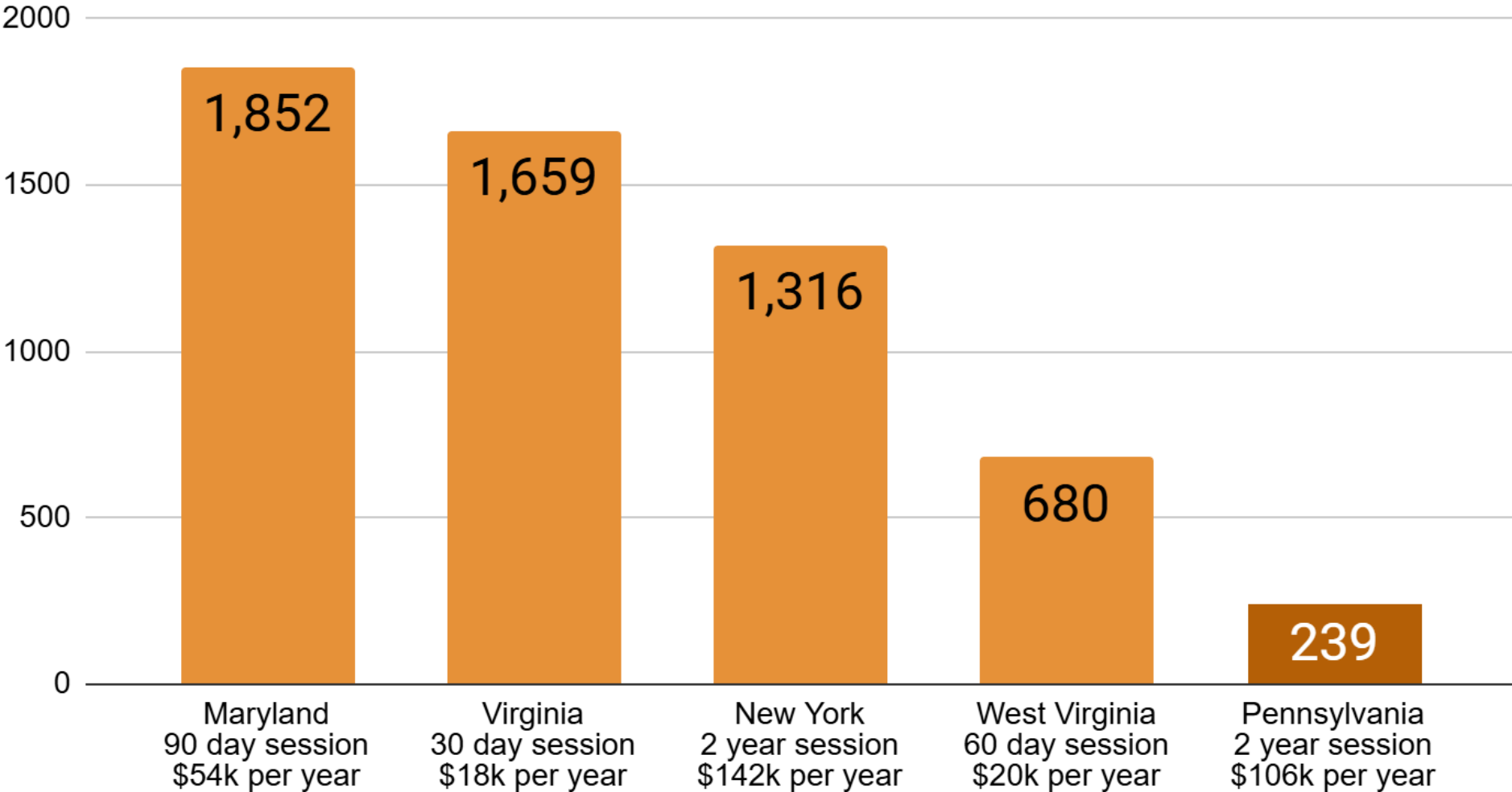
- Dysfunction by Design**
- Off to a Slow Start**
- Legislatively Bipartisan?**
- NEW! Is Gridlock Inevitable?**

**These rules aren't set in stone. Legislative leaders decide them at the start of every session.**

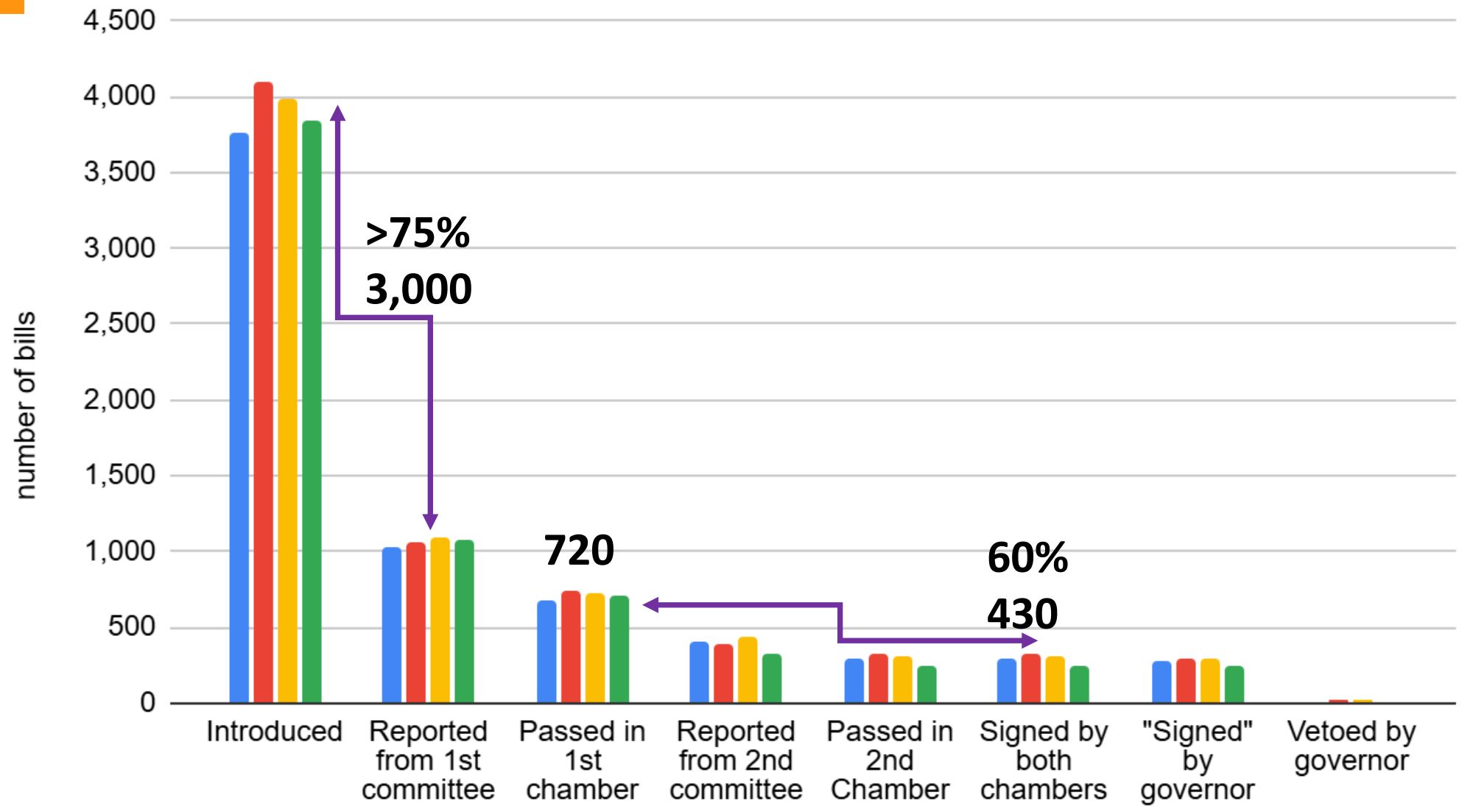
# Bills Enacted in 2023-2024

## Pennsylvania and Four Neighboring States

Salary reflects legislator base salary in 2024



2017-2018    2019-2020    2021-2022    2023-2024



# Committee Performance - Bottleneck

**HOUSE - 13 voting meetings 2023-24; maximum was 33**

~ 2,000 bills referred to 23 committees

~ 1,200 bills untouched

~ 800 bills reported out of committee

**SENATE - 11 voting meetings 2023-24; maximum was 23**

~ 1,600 bills referred to 20 committees

~ 1,100 bills untouched

~ 500 bills reported out of committee

# Committee Performance - Bottleneck

**HOUSE** - 8 voting meetings **2025** ; maximum was 17  
~ 2,000 bills referred to 23 committees  
~ 1,550 bills untouched  
~ 540 bills reported out of committee

**SENATE** - 5 voting meetings **2025** ; maximum was 10  
~ 1,240 bills referred to 20 committees  
~ 1,980 bills untouched  
~ 260 bills reported out of committee

# 2023-24 House and Senate Performance

- **HOUSE** - 48 and 49 voting meetings in 2023 and 2024
- **SENATE** - 57 and 46 voting meetings in 2023 and 2024
  
- Passed 239 bills in two years
- Third highest annual base salary - \$110,040
  
- Total Legislature Cost: \$480,000,000 for budget year, +8%
- [Cost each day, 365 days: \$1,315,000]
  
- Largest line item: “Caucus (R) & (D)” – 60%  
Excluded from Sunshine Laws

# 2025 House and Senate Performance

- **HOUSE** - 60 voting meetings in **2025**
- **SENATE** - 51 voting meetings in **2025**
- Passed 71 bills in 12 months (11 = Appropriation Bills)
- Third highest annual base salary - **\$113,592**
- Total Legislature Cost: \$491,700,000 for budget year, +2%
- [Cost each day, 365 days: \$1,350,000]
- Largest line item: “Caucus (R) & (D)” – 60% - **\$250M**  
Excluded from Sunshine Laws

## Spotlight PA reports (Dec 15, 2025):

- Lawmakers and legislative leaders countered that the number of laws passed and session days held is not the only way to assess productivity.
- House Majority Leader Matt Bradford (D., Montgomery) said that “the impact on regular people in Pennsylvania” is a better metric.
- “We focus on quality, not quantity, and the number of bills passed is much less important than the valuable substance of the issues addressed,” Pittman said in a written statement.

# 2024 Bipartisan Successes

**Workers' compensation claim for post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI)**

Four bills and **SIX years** later – PTSI bill enacted – SB365

**Telemedicine – defining what, who, insurance payments**

Ten bills and **EIGHT years** later – Telemedicine bill enacted - SB739

**Pennsylvania's Property Tax / Rent Rebate (PTRR) program – 2007**

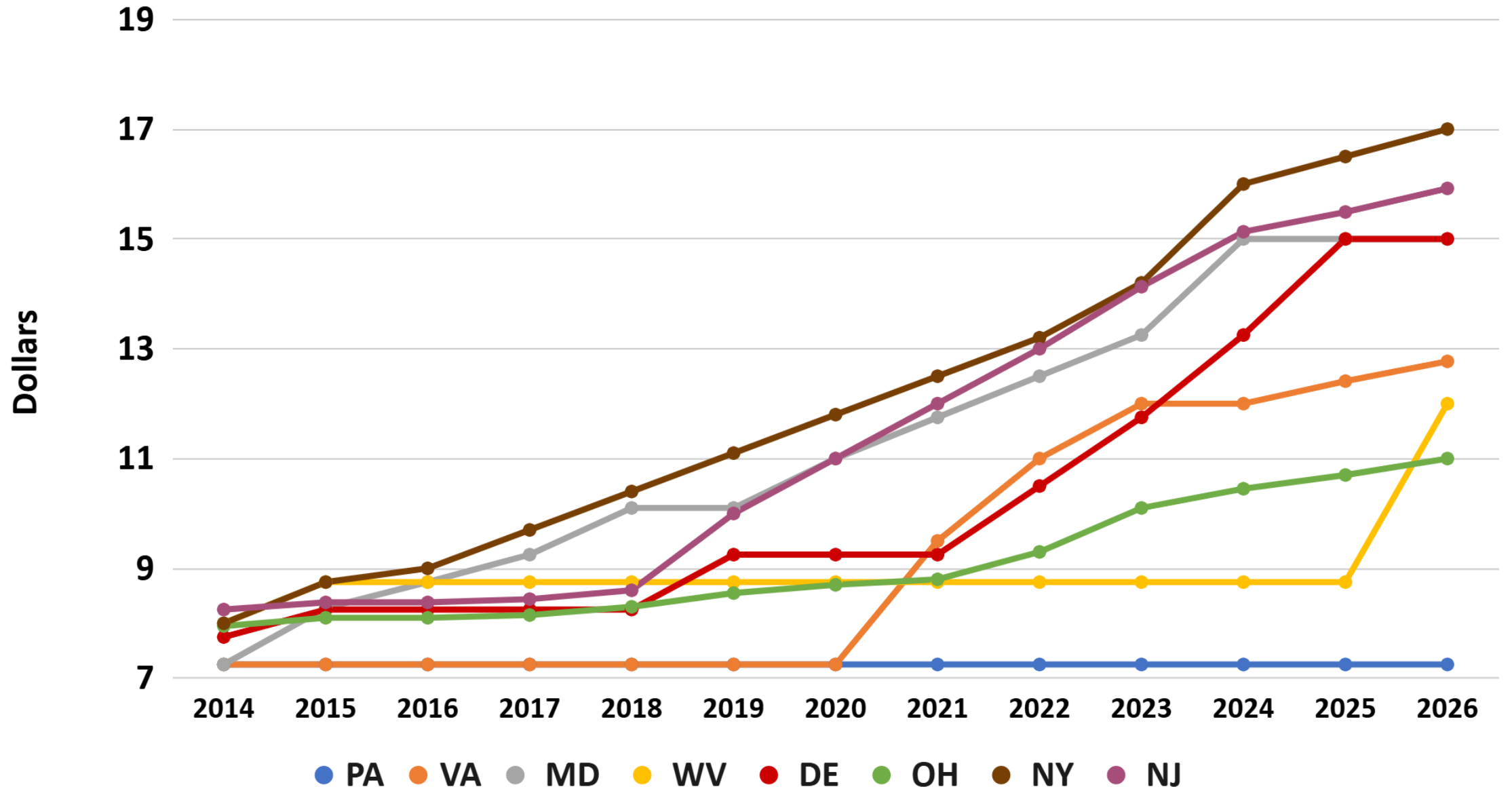
Almost 20 bills and **ELEVEN years** later – PTRR bill enacted - HB 1100

# Continued Bipartisan Failures

- 46 bills - 10 years - **Raise Min Wage** (Legislative Wage increased 45%)
- 10 bills - 8 years - **Childhood Lead Testing**
- 14 bills - 10 years – **Independent Redistricting Commission**
- 39 bills - 25 years - **Gift Ban**

Chairman Robinson: bills failed to move because some legislators favored raising the minimum wage to \$20.00 an hour, with others preferring \$15, and some wanted regional increases, with others arguing for a statewide increase. ***“Trying to get everyone on board with the same thing is rather difficult.”***

# Minimum Wage



# Continued Bipartisan Failures

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- 10 bills - 8 years - **Childhood Lead Testing**  
(Lead Advisory Board report - none enacted)
- 14 bills - 10 years – **Independent Redistricting Commission**
- 39 bills - 25 years - **Gift Ban**

Majority Chair of Labor & Industry Committee:

*“On a bill of this magnitude, the preferred way to advance it is to **have an agreement in place before starting** it through the legislative process and leadership would be involved in those discussions.”*

# Rules can be changed!

- **Current Operating Rules allow partisan gatekeepers to**
  - **control the agenda**
  - **block reform**
  - **shut out our voices in Harrisburg**
- **These rules aren't set in stone.**
- **Legislative leaders decide them at the start of every session**
- **Then refuse to consider changes introduced by legislators during the next two years**

# Collaborative Rules in Other States

- Committees required to hear and/or report all bills
- Bills that are reported from committee automatically calendared for further action
- Use of Conference Committees to resolve chamber differences
- Crossover days \*\*
- One Subject Rule – consistent enforcement
- Germaine Amendments – consistent enforcement
- Priority bills for legislators

**\*\*** *“I think there's nothing like deadlines to get stuff done,” Bradford told Spotlight PA. “Sadly, that's a part of human nature.”*

**While there are many aspects of the PA legislature and legislative process deserving of attention and reform, our immediate requests are straightforward:**

- Bills with demonstrated bipartisan support must be guaranteed a vote in committee.
- Bills voted out of committee with bipartisan support must be guaranteed a vote on the chamber floor.
- Bills passed in one chamber with bipartisan support should be given consideration in the other chamber.



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