

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 21

Special Session No. 1 of  
2023-2024

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Adopting, with exceptions, the General Operating Rules of the  
2 House of Representatives (2021-2022) as the Rules of the  
3 House of Representatives for Special Session No. 1 (2023),  
4 further providing for supervision of Hall of the House and  
5 committee rooms, for debate, for time of meeting, for order  
6 of business, for standing committees, for powers and duties  
7 of standing committees and for Committee on Rules.

8 RESOLVED, That the business of the House of Representatives  
9 during Special Session No. 1 (2023) be confined to the subjects  
10 appropriate to the Special Session; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the General Operating Rules, Rules 1-78, of  
12 the House of Representatives (2021-2022) be adopted as the Rules  
13 of the House of Representatives for Special Session No. 1 (2023)  
14 of the House of Representatives with the exception of Rules 8,  
15 10, 15, 17, 43, 45, 45(a) and 46; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the following be adopted as additional Rules  
17 of the House of Representatives for Special Session No. 1 (2023)  
18 of the House of Representatives:

19 RULE 8

20 Supervision of Hall of the House

21 and Committee Rooms

1 Subject to the direction of the Speaker, the Chief Clerk  
2 shall have supervision and control over the Hall of the House,  
3 the caucus rooms and the committee rooms.

4 In accordance with the act of January 10, 1968 (1967 P.L.925,  
5 No.417), referred to as the Legislative Officers and Employes  
6 Law, the Bipartisan Management Committee shall develop rules or  
7 regulations for the assignment, allocation and use of all other  
8 rooms assigned to the House in the East Wing and Main Capitol.

9 During the sessions of the Legislature, the Hall of the House  
10 shall not be used for public or private business other than  
11 legislative matters except by consent of the House. During  
12 periods of recess of the House such use may be authorized by the  
13 Speaker without the consent of the House.

14 RULE 10

15 Debate

16 When a member desires to address the House, the member shall  
17 rise and respectfully address the Speaker. Upon being  
18 recognized, the member may speak, and shall be confined to the  
19 question under consideration and avoiding personal reflections.

20 When two or more members rise at the same time and ask for  
21 recognition, the Speaker shall designate the member who is  
22 entitled to the floor.

23 No member, except the Majority and Minority Leaders, may  
24 speak more than twice on any question, without the consent of  
25 the House. The sponsor of a bill or an amendment shall be  
26 entitled to be recognized twice, and a maker of a debatable  
27 motion shall be entitled to be recognized twice; but all other  
28 members shall be recognized only once. When recognized, no  
29 member except the Majority Leader and Minority Leader may debate  
30 on any debatable question for more than five minutes each time

1 the member is recognized.

2 With the unanimous consent of the House a member may make a  
3 statement not exceeding ten minutes in length concerning a  
4 subject or matter not pending before the House for  
5 consideration, providing the Majority and Minority Leaders have  
6 agreed on a time the member is to ask for recognition.

7 RULE 15

8 Time of Meeting

9 The House shall convene at the discretion of the House. No  
10 session of the House may begin before 8:00 A.M. nor end after  
11 11:00 P.M. unless exigent circumstances exist, as determined by  
12 an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members elected to  
13 the House, by a roll call vote on a motion to extend session. A  
14 motion to extend session may be made to extend session generally  
15 or to conclude business on a specific question or questions. If  
16 a motion to extend session is made prior to 10:15 P.M. and a  
17 roll call vote has not been ordered, the arrival of 10:45 P.M.  
18 shall put an end to all debate and shall bring the House to an  
19 immediate roll call vote on the question to extend session.  
20 Nothing in this rule shall prevent the House from conducting  
21 administrative matters, including the making of announcements  
22 regarding the House schedule for the benefit of members or in  
23 order to comply with 65 Pa.C.S. § 709 (relating to public  
24 notice) after 11:00 P.M. Upon the Speaker's determination that  
25 all administrative matters are concluded, the Speaker shall  
26 adjourn the House.

27 RULE 17

28 Order of Business

29 The daily order of business shall be:

30 (1) Prayer.

- 1 (2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2 (3) Correction and approval of the Journal.
- 3 (4) Leaves of absence.
- 4 (5) Master Roll Call.
- 5 (6) Reports of Committee.
- 6 (7) First consideration bills.
- 7 (8) Second consideration bills.
- 8 (9) Third consideration bills, final passage bills
- 9 (including both third consideration and final passage postponed
- 10 bills) and resolutions.
- 11 (10) Final passage bills recalled from the Governor.
- 12 (11) Messages from the Senate and communications from the
- 13 Governor.
- 14 (12) Reference to appropriate committees of bills,
- 15 resolutions, petitions, memorials, remonstrances and other
- 16 papers.
- 17 (13) Unfinished business on the Speaker's table.
- 18 (14) Announcements.
- 19 (15) Adjournment.

20 Any question may, by a majority vote of the members elected,  
21 be made a special order of business. When the time arrives for  
22 its consideration, the Speaker shall lay the special order of  
23 business before the House.

#### 24 RULE 43

##### 25 Standing Committees

26 Two standing committees of the House, the Committee on  
27 Appropriations and the Committee on Judiciary, are hereby  
28 created.

29 The Committee on Appropriations shall consist of 20 members  
30 of the majority party and 17 members of the minority party. The

1 Committee on Judiciary shall consist of 13 members of the  
2 majority party and 12 members of the minority party. The quorum  
3 for each of the standing committees shall be no less than the  
4 majority of said committees.

5 The officers and members of the standing committees under  
6 this rule shall be selected by the appropriate caucus leader.  
7 The caucus leader shall make the appointment by letter and  
8 deliver it to the Speaker.

9 RULE 45

10 Powers and Duties of Standing Committees

11 The chair of each standing committee shall fix regular  
12 weekly, biweekly or monthly meeting days for the transaction of  
13 business before the committee. The chair of the committee shall  
14 notify all members, at least 24 hours in advance of the date,  
15 time and place of regular meetings, and, insofar as possible,  
16 the subjects on the agenda. In addition to regular meetings,  
17 special meetings may be called from time to time by the chair of  
18 the committee as they deem necessary. No recess or combination  
19 of recesses shall exceed 48 hours for any committee meeting. No  
20 committee shall meet during any session of the House without  
21 first obtaining permission of the Speaker. During any such  
22 meeting, no vote shall be taken on the Floor of the House on any  
23 amendment, recommittal motion, final passage of any bill, or any  
24 other matter requiring a roll call vote. Any committee meeting  
25 called off the Floor of the House shall meet in a committee  
26 room. In addition to the specific provisions of this rule, all  
27 provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings)  
28 relative to notice of meetings shall be complied with.

29 At regularly scheduled meetings, or upon the call of the  
30 chair, for special meetings, the membership of such committees

1 shall meet to consider any bill, resolution, or other matter on  
2 the agenda. The secretary of each standing committee shall  
3 record:

4 (1) the minutes of the meeting,

5 (2) all votes taken,

6 (3) a roll or attendance of members at standing committee  
7 meetings showing the names of those present, absent or excused  
8 from attendance, and the majority and minority chairs or their  
9 designees shall verify by their signatures all votes taken and  
10 the roll or attendance of those members present, absent or  
11 excused before said records are submitted to the Chief Clerk,  
12 and

13 (4) dispatch of bills and resolutions before the committee.

14 Such records shall be open to public inspection. On the first  
15 legislative day of each week the House is in session, the chair  
16 of each standing committee shall submit to the Chief Clerk for  
17 inclusion in the House Journal only, the roll or record of  
18 attendance of members at standing committee meetings held prior  
19 thereto and not yet reported, along with the record of all votes  
20 taken at such meetings. All reports from standing committees  
21 shall be prepared in writing by the secretary of the committee.  
22 Members of a standing committee may prepare in writing and file  
23 a minority report, setting forth the reasons for their dissent.  
24 Such committee reports shall be filed with the Chief Clerk  
25 within five days of the meeting. All meetings at which formal  
26 action is taken by a standing committee shall be open to the  
27 public, making such reports as are required under Rule 44. When  
28 any member, except for an excused absence, fails to attend five  
29 consecutive regular meetings of his or her committee, the chair  
30 of that committee shall notify the member of that fact and, if

1 the member in question fails to reasonably justify absences to  
2 the satisfaction of a majority of the membership of the standing  
3 committee of which he or she is a member, membership on the  
4 committee shall be deemed vacant and the chair of the standing  
5 committee shall notify the Speaker of the House to that effect.  
6 Such vacancy shall then be filled in the manner prescribed by  
7 these rules.

8 Whenever the chair of any standing committee shall refuse to  
9 call a regular meeting, then a majority of the members of the  
10 standing committee may vote to call a meeting by giving two  
11 days' written notice to the Speaker of the House, setting the  
12 time and place for such meeting. Such notice shall be read in  
13 the House and the same posted by the Chief Clerk in the House  
14 Chamber. Thereafter, the meeting shall be held at the time and  
15 place specified in the notice. In addition, all provisions of 65  
16 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings) relative to notice of  
17 meetings shall be complied with. Records, bills and other papers  
18 in the possession of committees, upon final adjournment of the  
19 House shall be filed with the Chief Clerk.

20 The chair of each standing committee shall have the power to  
21 administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before  
22 the committee.

23 No committee report, except a report of the Appropriations  
24 Committee, shall be recognized by the House, unless the same has  
25 been acted upon by a majority vote of the members of a standing  
26 committee present at a committee session actually assembled and  
27 meeting as a committee, provided such majority vote numbers at  
28 least 13 members, and provided further a quorum is present. No  
29 committee report of the Appropriations Committee shall be  
30 recognized by the House, unless the same has been acted upon by

1 a majority vote of the members of such committee present at a  
2 committee session actually assembled and meeting as a committee,  
3 provided such majority vote numbers at least 18 members, and  
4 provided further a quorum is present.

5 No proxy voting shall be permitted in committee, except as  
6 provided for herein. If a member reports to a scheduled  
7 committee meeting and advises the chair and other members of a  
8 conflicting committee meeting or other legislative meeting which  
9 he or she must attend on the same day, the member is authorized  
10 to give the chair or minority chair his or her proxy in writing  
11 which shall be valid only for that day and which shall include  
12 written instructions for the exercise of such proxy by the chair  
13 or minority chair during the meeting. The member should also  
14 advise the chair where he or she can be reached. In the event  
15 the conflicting committee meeting or other legislative meeting  
16 is scheduled to convene at the same time or prior to the meeting  
17 at which a member desires to vote by proxy, such proxy shall be  
18 delivered to both the chair and minority chair prior to, but on  
19 the same day as, the conflicting meetings.

20 When the majority of the members of a standing committee  
21 believe that a certain bill or resolution in the possession of  
22 the standing committee should be considered and acted upon by  
23 such committee, they may request the chair to include the same  
24 as part of the business of a committee meeting. Upon failure of  
25 the chair to comply with such request, the membership may  
26 require that such bill be considered by written motion made and  
27 approved by a majority vote of the entire membership to which  
28 such committee is entitled.

29 Whenever the phrase "majority of members of a standing  
30 committee" is used in these rules, it shall mean majority of the

1 entire membership to which a standing committee is entitled,  
2 unless the context thereof indicates a different intent.

3 To assist the House in appraising the administration of the  
4 laws and in developing such amendments or related legislation as  
5 it may deem necessary, each standing committee of the House  
6 shall exercise continuous watchfulness of the execution by the  
7 administrative agencies concerned of any laws, the subject  
8 matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such committee;  
9 and, for that purpose, shall study all pertinent reports and  
10 data submitted to the House by the agencies in the executive  
11 branch of the Government.

12 The Committee on Appropriations shall have the power to issue  
13 subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chair commanding any  
14 person to appear before it and answer questions touching matters  
15 properly being inquired into by the committee, which matters  
16 shall include data from any fund administered by the  
17 Commonwealth, and to produce such books, papers, records,  
18 accounts, reports, documents and data and information produced  
19 and stored by any electronic data processing system as the  
20 committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may be served upon any  
21 person and shall have the force and effect of subpoenas issued  
22 out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any person who willfully  
23 neglects or refuses to testify before the committee or to  
24 produce any books, papers, records, accounts, reports, documents  
25 or data and information produced and stored by any electronic  
26 data processing system shall be subject to the penalties  
27 provided by the laws of the Commonwealth in such case. Each  
28 member of the committee shall have power to administer oaths and  
29 affirmations to witnesses appearing before the committee. The  
30 committee may also cause the deposition of witnesses either

1 residing within or without the State to be taken in the manner  
2 prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions.

3 RULE 46

4 Committee on Rules

5 The Committee on Rules shall consist of the Speaker, the  
6 Majority Leader, the Majority Whip, the Minority Leader, the  
7 Minority Whip, the Majority Appropriations Chair, the Minority  
8 Appropriations Chair, 14 members of the majority party appointed  
9 by the Majority Leader, and 12 members of the minority party  
10 appointed by the Minority Leader. The Majority Leader shall be  
11 chair.

12 The committee shall make recommendations designed to improve  
13 and expedite the business and procedure of the House and its  
14 committees, and to propose to the House any amendments to the  
15 Rules deemed necessary. The committee shall also do all things  
16 necessary to fulfill any assignment or duty given to the  
17 committee by any resolution, or other rule of the House of  
18 Representatives.

19 The committee shall be privileged to report at any time.

20 The committee shall, until or unless superseded by law, adopt  
21 guidelines for the expenditure of all funds appropriated to the  
22 House or to any member or nonmember officer by any appropriation  
23 act.

24 Such guidelines shall include a detailed statement of the  
25 general and specific purposes for which the funds from that  
26 appropriation account may be used, as well as uniform standards  
27 of required documentation, accounting systems and record keeping  
28 procedures.

29 Except as expressly provided in Rule 30 or this rule, the  
30 committee shall not have the power to amend any bill or joint

1 resolution.