

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 2

Special Session No. 1 of  
2023-2024

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, JANUARY 9, 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 debate, for time of meeting, for order  
5 of business, for standing committees, for powers and duties  
6 of standing committees and for Committee on Rules.

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

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

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

18 RULE 10

19 Debate

20 When a member desires to address the House, the member shall

1 rise and respectfully address the Speaker. Upon being  
2 recognized, the member may speak, and shall be confined to the  
3 question under consideration and avoiding personal reflections.

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

7 No member, except the Majority and Minority Leaders, may  
8 speak more than twice on any question, without the consent of  
9 the House. The sponsor of a bill or an amendment shall be  
10 entitled to be recognized twice, and a maker of a debatable  
11 motion shall be entitled to be recognized twice; but all other  
12 members shall be recognized only once. When recognized, no  
13 member except the Majority Leader and Minority Leader may debate  
14 on any debatable question for more than five minutes each time  
15 the member is recognized.

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

21 RULE 15

22 Time of Meeting

23 The House shall convene at the discretion of the House. No  
24 session of the House may begin before 8:00 A.M. nor end after  
25 11:00 P.M. unless exigent circumstances exist, as determined by  
26 an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members elected to  
27 the House, by a roll call vote on a motion to extend session. A  
28 motion to extend session may be made to extend session generally  
29 or to conclude business on a specific question or questions. If  
30 a motion to extend session is made prior to 10:15 P.M. and a

1 roll call vote has not been ordered, the arrival of 10:45 P.M.  
2 shall put an end to all debate and shall bring the House to an  
3 immediate roll call vote on the question to extend session.  
4 Nothing in this rule shall prevent the House from conducting  
5 administrative matters, including the making of announcements  
6 regarding the House schedule for the benefit of members or in  
7 order to comply with 65 Pa.C.S. § 709 (relating to public  
8 notice) after 11:00 P.M. Upon the Speaker's determination that  
9 all administrative matters are concluded, the Speaker shall  
10 adjourn the House.

11 RULE 17

12 Order of Business

13 The daily order of business shall be:

- 14 (1) Prayer.
- 15 (2) Pledge of Allegiance.
- 16 (3) Correction and approval of the Journal.
- 17 (4) Leaves of absence.
- 18 (5) Master Roll Call.
- 19 (6) Reports of Committee.
- 20 (7) First consideration bills.
- 21 (8) Second consideration bills.
- 22 (9) Third consideration bills, final passage bills  
23 (including both third consideration and final passage postponed  
24 bills) and resolutions.
- 25 (10) Final passage bills recalled from the Governor.
- 26 (11) Messages from the Senate and communications from the  
27 Governor.
- 28 (12) Reference to appropriate committees of bills,  
29 resolutions, petitions, memorials, remonstrances and other  
30 papers.



1 special meetings may be called from time to time by the chair of  
2 the committee as they deem necessary. No recess or combination  
3 of recesses shall exceed 48 hours for any committee meeting. No  
4 committee shall meet during any session of the House without  
5 first obtaining permission of the Speaker. During any such  
6 meeting, no vote shall be taken on the Floor of the House on any  
7 amendment, recommittal motion, final passage of any bill, or any  
8 other matter requiring a roll call vote. Any committee meeting  
9 called off the Floor of the House shall meet in a committee  
10 room. In addition to the specific provisions of this rule, all  
11 provisions of 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings)  
12 relative to notice of meetings shall be complied with.

13 At regularly scheduled meetings, or upon the call of the  
14 chair, for special meetings, the membership of such committees  
15 shall meet to consider any bill, resolution, or other matter on  
16 the agenda. The secretary of each standing committee shall  
17 record:

18 (1) the minutes of the meeting,

19 (2) all votes taken,

20 (3) a roll or attendance of members at standing committee  
21 meetings showing the names of those present, absent or excused  
22 from attendance, and the majority and minority chairs or their  
23 designees shall verify by their signatures all votes taken and  
24 the roll or attendance of those members present, absent or  
25 excused before said records are submitted to the Chief Clerk,  
26 and

27 (4) dispatch of bills and resolutions before the committee.  
28 Such records shall be open to public inspection. On the first  
29 legislative day of each week the House is in session, the chair  
30 of each standing committee shall submit to the Chief Clerk for

1 inclusion in the House Journal only, the roll or record of  
2 attendance of members at standing committee meetings held prior  
3 thereto and not yet reported, along with the record of all votes  
4 taken at such meetings. All reports from standing committees  
5 shall be prepared in writing by the secretary of the committee.  
6 Members of a standing committee may prepare in writing and file  
7 a minority report, setting forth the reasons for their dissent.  
8 Such committee reports shall be filed with the Chief Clerk  
9 within five days of the meeting. All meetings at which formal  
10 action is taken by a standing committee shall be open to the  
11 public, making such reports as are required under Rule 44. When  
12 any member, except for an excused absence, fails to attend five  
13 consecutive regular meetings of his or her committee, the chair  
14 of that committee shall notify the member of that fact and, if  
15 the member in question fails to reasonably justify absences to  
16 the satisfaction of a majority of the membership of the standing  
17 committee of which he or she is a member, membership on the  
18 committee shall be deemed vacant and the chair of the standing  
19 committee shall notify the Speaker of the House to that effect.  
20 Such vacancy shall then be filled in the manner prescribed by  
21 these rules.

22 Whenever the chair of any standing committee shall refuse to  
23 call a regular meeting, then a majority of the members of the  
24 standing committee may vote to call a meeting by giving two  
25 days' written notice to the Speaker of the House, setting the  
26 time and place for such meeting. Such notice shall be read in  
27 the House and the same posted by the Chief Clerk in the House  
28 Chamber. Thereafter, the meeting shall be held at the time and  
29 place specified in the notice. In addition, all provisions of 65  
30 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings) relative to notice of

1 meetings shall be complied with. Records, bills and other papers  
2 in the possession of committees, upon final adjournment of the  
3 House shall be filed with the Chief Clerk.

4 The chair of each standing committee shall have the power to  
5 administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before  
6 the committee.

7 No committee report, except a report of the Appropriations  
8 Committee, shall be recognized by the House, unless the same has  
9 been acted upon by a majority vote of the members of a standing  
10 committee present at a committee session actually assembled and  
11 meeting as a committee, provided such majority vote numbers at  
12 least 13 members, and provided further a quorum is present. No  
13 committee report of the Appropriations Committee shall be  
14 recognized by the House, unless the same has been acted upon by  
15 a majority vote of the members of such committee present at a  
16 committee session actually assembled and meeting as a committee,  
17 provided such majority vote numbers at least 18 members, and  
18 provided further a quorum is present.

19 No proxy voting shall be permitted in committee, except as  
20 provided for herein. If a member reports to a scheduled  
21 committee meeting and advises the chair and other members of a  
22 conflicting committee meeting or other legislative meeting which  
23 he or she must attend on the same day, the member is authorized  
24 to give the chair or minority chair his or her proxy in writing  
25 which shall be valid only for that day and which shall include  
26 written instructions for the exercise of such proxy by the chair  
27 or minority chair during the meeting. The member should also  
28 advise the chair where he or she can be reached. In the event  
29 the conflicting committee meeting or other legislative meeting  
30 is scheduled to convene at the same time or prior to the meeting

1 at which a member desires to vote by proxy, such proxy shall be  
2 delivered to both the chair and minority chair prior to, but on  
3 the same day as, the conflicting meetings.

4 When the majority of the members of a standing committee  
5 believe that a certain bill or resolution in the possession of  
6 the standing committee should be considered and acted upon by  
7 such committee, they may request the chair to include the same  
8 as part of the business of a committee meeting. Upon failure of  
9 the chair to comply with such request, the membership may  
10 require that such bill be considered by written motion made and  
11 approved by a majority vote of the entire membership to which  
12 such committee is entitled.

13 Whenever the phrase "majority of members of a standing  
14 committee" is used in these rules, it shall mean majority of the  
15 entire membership to which a standing committee is entitled,  
16 unless the context thereof indicates a different intent.

17 To assist the House in appraising the administration of the  
18 laws and in developing such amendments or related legislation as  
19 it may deem necessary, each standing committee of the House  
20 shall exercise continuous watchfulness of the execution by the  
21 administrative agencies concerned of any laws, the subject  
22 matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such committee;  
23 and, for that purpose, shall study all pertinent reports and  
24 data submitted to the House by the agencies in the executive  
25 branch of the Government.

26 The Committee on Appropriations shall have the power to issue  
27 subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chair commanding any  
28 person to appear before it and answer questions touching matters  
29 properly being inquired into by the committee, which matters  
30 shall include data from any fund administered by the



1 Commonwealth, and to produce such books, papers, records,  
2 accounts, reports, documents and data and information produced  
3 and stored by any electronic data processing system as the  
4 committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may be served upon any  
5 person and shall have the force and effect of subpoenas issued  
6 out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any person who willfully  
7 neglects or refuses to testify before the committee or to  
8 produce any books, papers, records, accounts, reports, documents  
9 or data and information produced and stored by any electronic  
10 data processing system shall be subject to the penalties  
11 provided by the laws of the Commonwealth in such case. Each  
12 member of the committee shall have power to administer oaths and  
13 affirmations to witnesses appearing before the committee. The  
14 committee may also cause the deposition of witnesses either  
15 residing within or without the State to be taken in the manner  
16 prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions.

17 RULE 46

18 Committee on Rules

19 The Committee on Rules shall consist of the Speaker, the  
20 Majority Leader, the Majority Whip, the Minority Leader, the  
21 Minority Whip, the Majority Appropriations Chair, the Minority  
22 Appropriations Chair, 14 members of the majority party appointed  
23 by the Majority Leader, and 12 members of the minority party  
24 appointed by the Minority Leader. The Majority Leader shall be  
25 chair.

26 The committee shall make recommendations designed to improve  
27 and expedite the business and procedure of the House and its  
28 committees, and to propose to the House any amendments to the  
29 Rules deemed necessary. The committee shall also do all things  
30 necessary to fulfill any assignment or duty given to the

1 committee by any resolution, or other rule of the House of  
2 Representatives.

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

4 The committee shall, until or unless superseded by law, adopt  
5 guidelines for the expenditure of all funds appropriated to the  
6 House or to any member or nonmember officer by any appropriation  
7 act.

8 Such guidelines shall include a detailed statement of the  
9 general and specific purposes for which the funds from that  
10 appropriation account may be used, as well as uniform standards  
11 of required documentation, accounting systems and record keeping  
12 procedures.

13 Except as expressly provided in Rule 30 or this rule, the  
14 committee shall not have the power to amend any bill or joint  
15 resolution.