

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

SESSION OF 2024 208TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 3

SENATE

TUESDAY, February 6, 2024

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor Austin A. Davis) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Hon. MICHAEL GERDES, Secretary of the Senate:

Let us pray.

Dear God, thank You for bringing us to this Chamber where we will continue to do the work entrusted to us by the people of the Commonwealth. We ask that You inspire those present and guide them through the many challenges they face on a daily basis. Finally, we pray that what we do will advance the peace, safety, and happiness of all Pennsylvanians. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I request temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Mastriano and Senator Dush, and a legislative leave for Senator Regan.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Pittman requests temporary Capitol leaves for Senator Mastriano and Senator Dush, and a legislative leave for Senator Regan. Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator PITTMAN asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator DiSANTO, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

Senator COSTA asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator KANE, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT. The Journals of the Sessions of October 16, 2023; October 17, 2023; October 18, 2023; October 23, 2023; October 24, 2023; and October 25, 2023, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of October 16, 2023; October 17, 2023; October 18, 2023; October 23, 2023; October 24, 2023; and October 25, 2023.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Muth.

The PRESIDENT. Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Muth. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator PITTMAN and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Argall	Costa	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Culver	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dillon	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT. The Journals are approved.

**GUESTS OF SENATOR CAROLYN T. COMITTA
PRESENTED TO THE SENATE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Chester, Senator Comitta.

Senator COMITTA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Devon Prep Golf Team from my district, including the

following team members: team captains, Nick Ciocca, John Curran, and Dan DiLella; and team members, Andrew Carrocio, Chris Pullano, Alek Shah, John Lewis, Jude McCann, Nace Barry, Pat Manion; and coaches, Head Coach Tony Ball and Assistant Coach Pat Duffy. The Devon Prep Golf Team is being honored upon winning the 2023 PIAA State championship. This is the team's second State championship, with their first occurring in 2021. The team captured the State title with a score of 304. This was an especially rewarding first place win after they placed third last year. The team members are to be praised for their continuing dedication to excellence and outstanding performance. Congratulations to the Devon Prep Golf Team on winning the 2023 PIAA State championship. Please join me in giving them a warm welcome to the Pennsylvania Senate.

The PRESIDENT. Would the guests of Senator Comitta please rise and be welcomed by the Senate.

[Applause.]

CALENDAR

THIRD CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 228, HB 269, SB 346, SB 375 and SB 403 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON THIRD CONSIDERATION AND FINAL PASSAGE

SB 745 (Pr. No. 1357) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 62 (Procurement) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in contracts for public works, providing for contracts for information technology commodities and services.

Considered the third time and agreed to,

And the amendments made thereto having been printed as required by the Constitution,

On the question,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from York, Senator Phillips-Hill.

Senator PHILLIPS-HILL. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Bill No. 745, legislation aimed at protecting our State's information technology. Cybersecurity attacks cost businesses and governments billions of dollars every year. In this environment, it is critical to understand that instead of looking at only a software package or hardware, we need to equally evaluate the security standards put into every device and every piece of software through rigorous standards. The National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] guidelines are the gold standard in those IT procurement contracts. This legislation will require that any State government purchase of computer hardware shall meet those NIST standards and utilize best practices for hardware security. The failure of the Commonwealth in handling various IT projects is abundantly clear: the State Police radio project, the

Unemployment Compensation call centers, the Teacher Information Management System, the Department of Health's vital records, Labor and Industry, as well as data breaches and data loss from various agencies throughout the Commonwealth over the last few weeks. We cannot bury our heads in the sand. These breaches come at a cost to the hardworking taxpayers of this Commonwealth. Their sensitive information could be compromised. Their tax dollars could be used for data recovery solutions like we are seeing with the State Police and State Employees' Retirement System issues as of late. We cannot sit back and say everything is fine while, clearly, the status quo of our State's IT system is failing. We need to prioritize cybersecurity through best practices, and Senate Bill No. 745 sets our Commonwealth on that trajectory. I respectfully ask my colleagues for an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Mastriano has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

And the question recurring,
Shall the bill pass finally?

The yeas and nays were taken agreeably to the provisions of the Constitution and were as follows, viz:

YEA-48

Argall	Costa	Langerholc	Santarsiero
Aument	Culver	Laughlin	Saval
Baker	Dillon	Martin	Schwank
Bartolotta	Dush	Mastriano	Stefano
Boscola	Farry	Miller	Street
Brewster	Flynn	Muth	Tartaglione
Brooks	Fontana	Pennycuick	Vogel
Brown	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Cappelletti	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Coleman	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Collett	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Comitta	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw

NAY-0

A constitutional majority of all the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

Ordered, That the Secretary of the Senate present said bill to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 831, SB 832 and HB 1246 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

SECOND CONSIDERATION CALENDAR

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

HB 95, SB 219, SB 259, SB 265, HB 358, SB 363, SB 365, SB 501, SB 577 and SB 667 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, AMENDED

SB 792 (Pr. No. 919) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in emergency management services, providing for counterterrorism planning, preparedness and response; in Emergency Management Assistance Compact, providing for construction; and making repeals.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on second consideration?

ROBINSON AMENDMENT A3452 ADOPTED

Senator ROBINSON offered the following amendment No. A3452:

Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 1 and 2:
7203. Joint State Government Commission study.

Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 8 and 9:
"Commission." The Joint State Government Commission.

Amend Bill, page 3, by inserting between lines 24 and 25:
"PEMA." The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Amend Bill, page 4, by inserting between lines 18 and 19:
"Sponsoring agency." A municipality that has an agreement with the agency to be the sponsor of an urban search and rescue task force.

Amend Bill, page 5, by inserting between lines 1 and 2:
§ 7203. Joint State Government Commission study.

(a) Duty.--The commission shall conduct a comprehensive study and assessment on the need, readiness and state of operations of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and the Commonwealth's urban search and rescue capabilities and identify vulnerabilities, gaps in the system and areas of necessary and appropriate improvement.

(b) Advisory board.--The commission shall establish an advisory board to conduct the study under this section. The board shall consist of the following members or their designee:

- (1) The Director of PEMA.
- (2) The Adjutant General.
- (3) The State Fire Commissioner.
- (4) The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police.
- (5) The Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- (6) The Secretary of Environmental Protection.
- (7) The Secretary of Health.
- (8) The Secretary of Transportation.
- (9) The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

(10) The Commander of the Pennsylvania Civil Air Patrol.

(11) The FEMA Region 3 Representative.

(12) The President, or a designee of the President, of the International Association of Fire Fighters in a fire company in a city that is a sponsoring agency under section 7386(a)(1)(v)(A) (relating to State Fire Advisory Board).

(13) The President, or a designee of the President, of the International Association of Fire Fighters in a fire company in a city of the first class.

(13.1) One emergency management coordinator each from western, eastern and central Pennsylvania.

(14) A representative of the National Emergency Number Association.

(15) A representative of the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials.

(16) A representative of the Pennsylvania Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians.

(17) A representative of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.

(18) A representative of the executive board of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

(19) A representative of the Municipal League.

(20) A representative of the executive board of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners.

(21) The President or a designee of Pennsylvania Task Force 1.

(22) A representative of the Pennsylvania Fire Advisory Board.

(23) A representative of the Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association.

(24) A representative of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute.

(25) A representative of the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania.

(26) One director in each of the regional task forces, which must be located in western Pennsylvania, central Pennsylvania and eastern Pennsylvania.

(27) A representative of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania.

(28) The President, or a designee of the President, from the Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association.

(c) Conduct and assessment.--The commission shall:

(1) Conduct the study by reviewing the following:

(i) Strategies developed and utilized by agencies and businesses throughout this Commonwealth for dealing with disaster emergencies under the all-hazards preparedness standards provided by NIMS.

(ii) Security measures and response plans in place for critical emergency management and response for infrastructure such as bridges, roads, power stations, airports, dockyards and other critical infrastructure.

(iii) In consultation with PEMA, the overall emergency response system plan for this Commonwealth in accordance with NIMS standards and guidelines.

(iv) The level of training required and competency among Pennsylvania Task Force 1 staff, including current operations conducted by Pennsylvania Task Force 1.

(v) The current capabilities of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and the Commonwealth's regional task forces related to extraction from damaged or collapsed structures in this Commonwealth.

(vi) The status of protocols and capabilities of emergency medical services care provided by and to task forces for entrapped survivors, task force personnel and others. The assessment shall include canine search capability, readiness and care.

(vii) Pennsylvania Task Force 1's reconnaissance capabilities regarding damage assessment, mission readiness and resource needs.

(viii) PEMA's protocols and communications capabilities between Pennsylvania Task Force 1, this Commonwealth's current regional task forces and local emergency response personnel, such as fire companies, EMS agencies and State and local law enforcement, as well as Federal, State and local governments regarding their emergency operations.

(ix) The current protocols, capabilities or needs for hazardous material surveys, extraction and cleanup.

(x) Pennsylvania Task Force 1's and this Commonwealth's regional task forces' capabilities regarding structural stabilization as well as shoring and cribbing operations to damaged buildings.

(xi) The current protocols and capabilities of Pennsylvania Task Force 1's aquatic and aerial operations.

(2) Review, assess, inventory and catalog equipment possessed by Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and each other regional task force in this Commonwealth.

(3) Conduct a monetary assessment to identify and quantify the funding impacts of Pennsylvania Task Force 1 and the regional task force system, as well as the funding impact and needs of creating an additional FEMA Level 1 through 4 task force in this Commonwealth.

(d) Urban search and rescue.--The commission shall examine each of the component parts of the urban search and rescue system in this Commonwealth, including Pennsylvania Task Force 1, according to the policies and procedures of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System. The Joint State Government Commission shall examine the capability of the current urban search and rescue system in this Commonwealth to meet the challenges that the current system faces.

(e) Report and recommendations.--In developing a report as required under this section, the commission shall identify gaps in the system and develop recommendations to address the gaps. The information shall include the identification of resources necessary to address gaps and shall include the identification of areas or regions in this Commonwealth that lack resources in accordance with the policies and procedures of the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System.

(f) Time.--The Joint State Government Commission shall submit to the General Assembly a report of its findings and recommendations by November 30, 2024, or 180 days after the effective date of this subsection, whichever is later.

Amend Bill, page 8, line 3, by striking out "inside or outside this Commonwealth"

Amend Bill, page 8, lines 7 through 22, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

(a) Establishment.--

(1) The agency shall establish urban search and rescue task forces, including:

(i) At least one urban search and rescue task force that:

(A) is organized by the Commonwealth within a regional counterterrorism task force covering a county of the first class pursuant to a contract with a sponsoring agency; and

(B) meets or exceeds the minimum requirements of a Type 1 urban search and rescue task force as designated by FEMA in the NIMS guidelines, as certified by the agency.

(ii) No more than one urban search and rescue task force that:

(A) is organized within the Commonwealth within a regional counterterrorism task force pursuant to a contract with a sponsoring agency; and

(B) provides comprehensive urban search and rescue services to all areas of this Commonwealth as deemed necessary by the agency.

(iii) At least one urban search and rescue task force that:

(A) is organized by the Commonwealth within a regional counterterrorism task force covering a county of the second class; and

(B) by January 1, 2026, or 18 months after the agency contracts with a sponsoring agency, whichever is later, meets or exceeds the minimum requirements of a Type 3 urban search and rescue task force as designated by FEMA in the NIMS guidelines, as certified by the agency.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1)(i) may be satisfied by the operation of an urban search and rescue task force established by the Federal Government.

(3) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to require an urban search and rescue task force to be established in any regional counterterrorism task force.

Amend Bill, page 10, lines 1 through 9, by striking out all of said lines and inserting:

(g) Funding, grants and donations.--

(1) In addition to money that is provided to a task force under section 7216 (relating to grant program) or the authority of section 1508 of the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, the urban search and rescue task force may be eligible to receive grants, donations of equipment and supplies and other funds from any source.

(2) As an agent of the Commonwealth, an urban search and rescue task force or regional counterterrorism task force is entitled to tax-exempt status from the Federal Government.

Amend Bill, page 14, line 12, by inserting after "of":

"disaster mortuary response team,"

Amend Bill, page 14, by inserting between lines 13 and 14:

(i.1) 35 Pa.C.S. § 7203.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Robinson.

Senator ROBINSON. Mr. President, I offer amendment No. A3452 to Senate Bill No. 792. My bill, with my good friend and colleague Senator Costa, which establishes an urban search and rescue task force in western Pennsylvania. This amendment comes as a result of several stakeholder discussions over the past year. Specifically, it adds a Joint State Government Commission study; it includes the establishment of sponsoring agency by PEMA; specifies that no more than one urban search and rescue task force be organized within each counterterrorism task force; requires a Type 1 task force in the southeast and a Type 3 in the western part of the State; and it also includes technical changes. I respectfully request an affirmative vote.

Thank you, Mr. President.

And the question recurring,
Will the Senate agree to the amendment?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator ROBINSON and were as follows, viz:

YEA-46

Argall	Costa	Laughlin	Santarsiero
Aument	Culver	Martin	Saval
Baker	Dush	Mastriano	Schwank
Bartolotta	Farry	Miller	Stefano
Boscola	Flynn	Muth	Street
Brewster	Fontana	Pennycuik	Vogel
Brooks	Gebhard	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Brown	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Cappelletti	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Coleman	Hutchinson	Robinson	Williams, Lindsey
Collett	Kearney	Rothman	Yaw
Comitta	Langerhole		

NAY-2

Dillon Tartaglione

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the bill on second consideration, as amended?

It was agreed to.
Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILLS OVER IN ORDER

SB 845, SB 975, SB 1014 and SB 1017 -- Without objection, the bills were passed over in their order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION
AND REREFERRED

SB 1054 (Pr. No. 1348) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of November 3, 2022 (P.L.2158, No.158), known as the Overdose Mapping Act, further providing for definitions and for establishment and design; and providing for entry requirements for EMS providers.

Considered the second time and agreed to, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration. Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION

SB 1058 (Pr. No. 1355) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act providing for the abrogation of regulations relating to the CO2 Budget Trading Program.

Considered the second time and agreed to, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration.

BILL OVER IN ORDER

HB 1295 -- Without objection, the bill was passed over in its order at the request of Senator PITTMAN.

BILL ON SECOND CONSIDERATION AND REREFERRED

HB 1564 (Pr. No. 2568) -- The Senate proceeded to consideration of the bill, entitled:

An Act amending the act of July 9, 1987 (P.L.220, No.39), known as the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act, further providing for definitions, for license required, for State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors, for powers and functions of board, for qualifications for license, for procedures for licensing, for reciprocity, for endorsement of out-of-State licenses and for reinstatement of license; providing for restrictions on use of title "Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapist" and for restrictions on the use of title "Licensed Associate Professional Counselor"; further providing for license renewal and records and fees and for unlawful practice; and providing for effect of associate licensure.

Considered the second time and agreed to, Ordered, To be printed on the Calendar for third consideration. Upon motion of Senator PITTMAN, and agreed to by voice vote, the bill just considered was rereferred to the Committee on Appropriations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024

- 10:00 A.M. TRANSPORTATION (to consider Senate Bills No. 915 and 1047; and House Bill No. 73) Room 461 Main Capitol
10:15 A.M. EDUCATION (to consider Senate Bill No. 801) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

10:45 A.M. LAW AND JUSTICE (to consider the nomination of Darrell L. Clarke to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

2:00 P.M. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY and STATE GOVERNMENT (joint public hearing on the recent Office of Administration server data loss) Hearing Room 1 North Office (LIVE STREAMED)

Off the Floor APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 792; and House Bill No. 1564) Rules Committee Conference Room

Off the Floor RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider certain Executive Nominations) Rules Committee Conference Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

9:00 A.M. GAME AND FISHERIES (public hearing on the annual report from Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Fish and Boat Commission) Room 8E-A East Wing (LIVE STREAMED)

11:15 A.M. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY and COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (joint informational meeting – roundtable on Pennsylvania semiconductor production and workforce pipeline) Infinera Corp. 7360 Windsor Dr. Allentown

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

The Senate will briefly be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator Tartaglione.

Senator TARTAGLIONE. Mr. President, thank you. I offer my remarks on minimum wage to be spread on the record.

The PRESIDENT. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE:)

Mr. President, I rise because today marks 6,421 days since our Commonwealth's legislature last passed an increase in our poverty-level minimum wage. It is flat-out disheartening, Mr. President, that we as legislators have not come together to provide relief to our hardworking low-wage earners across the Commonwealth who are too often failing to make ends meet. For 17 and a half years, our minimum-wage and low-wage earners have seen their wages stagnate while the cost of living has ballooned around them, and it is important to highlight that every single State we border has acted to make sure their workers all have the opportunity to survive off the wages they earn.

It is unconscionable, Mr. President, that as we see our neighboring States all recognizing the need for fair pay, we have failed to act with them to support our workers. It is far past time for Pennsylvania to join our neighbors and raise our minimum wage and show our commitment to the well-being of our Commonwealth's workforce. Our nearly two decades of legislative inaction in raising our minimum wage and addressing the cycle of poverty we are allowing our low-wage earners to remain in not only affects the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of workers but also exacerbates income inequality across Pennsylvania. Our fellow Pennsylvanians deserve better, Mr. President, and that could not be clearer.

They deserve wages that reflect the dignity of their labor and allow them to provide for their families without constantly grappling with financial insecurity. That is why I introduced Senate Bill No. 12, because

I know it is time to put Pennsylvania's workforce on the path to \$15 an hour and to make sure our workers never have to deal with legislative inaction again. Senate Bill No. 12 would raise our minimum wage to \$15 an hour and tie further increases to the Consumer Price Index.

Let us bring Senate Bill No. 12 to the floor, let us bring it to a vote, and let us finally pass meaningful minimum wage reforms that prioritizes our most vulnerable workers.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATE AT EASE

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I do request the Senate be at ease. For the information of the Members, I expect that we will reconvene at 12:15 p.m., at which time we will congregate at the elevators so we can proceed to receive the budget address from His Excellency.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will be at ease.

[The Senate was at ease.]

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE CANCELLED

The PRESIDENT. Senator Dush has returned, and his temporary Capitol leave is cancelled.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT THE GOVERNOR TO THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA

The PRESIDENT. The time has come in our order of business to assemble in the Capitol Rotunda for a Joint Session with the House of Representatives.

The President pro tempore has appointed the following Senators to act as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort the Governor to the Joint Session: the gentleman from Erie County, Senator Laughlin, Chair; the gentlewoman from Monroe County, Senator Brown; and the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Senator Dillon. The committee will leave immediately to discharge its duties.

SENATE PROCEEDS TO THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA TO HEAR GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

The PRESIDENT. The Members of the Senate will please assemble on the first floor near the Senate elevators immediately behind the Sergeant-at-Arms in order to proceed to the Joint Session.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana, Senator Pittman.

Senator PITTMAN. Mr. President, I would just point out, as you indicated, we request the Members congregate at the elevators so we can proceed to the Joint Session, and in the meantime, we will recess the Session for the day until Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore, and that is a motion, Mr. President.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 12:19 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.