

No. 25
STATE OF MICHIGAN
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REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

Senate Chamber, Lansing, Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

10:00 a.m.

The Senate was called to order by the Assistant President pro tempore, Senator Erika Geiss.

The roll was called by the Secretary of the Senate, who announced that a quorum was present.

Albert—present
Anthony—present
Bayer—present
Bellino—present
Brinks—present
Bumstead—present
Camilleri—present
Cavanagh—present
Chang—present
Cherry—present
Daley—present
Damoose—present
Geiss—present

Hauck—present
Hertel—present
Hoitenga—present
Huizenga—present
Irwin—present
Johnson—present
Klinefelt—present
Lauwers—present
Lindsey—present
McBroom—present
McCann—present
McDonald Rivet—present
McMorrow—present

Moss—present
Nesbitt—present
Outman—present
Polehanki—present
Runestad—present
Santana—present
Shink—present
Singh—present
Theis—present
Victory—present
Webber—present
Wojno—present

Senator Thomas A. Albert of the 18th District offered the following invocation:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Assistant President pro tempore, Senator Geiss, led the members of the Senate in recital of the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Motions and Communications

Senator Lauwers moved that Senator McBroom be temporarily excused from today's session. The motion prevailed.

Senator Singh moved that Senators Cherry and Santana be temporarily excused from today's session. The motion prevailed.

The following communication was received and read:

Office of the Auditor General

March 7, 2024

Enclosed is a copy of the following reports:

- Report on Internal Control, Compliance, and Other Matters of the Michigan State Employees' Retirement System (071-0151-24).
- Report on Internal Control, Compliance, and Other Matters of the Michigan Judges' Retirement System (071-0153-24).
- Report on Internal Control, Compliance, and Other Matters of the Michigan State Police Retirement System (071-0154-24).
- Report on Internal Control, Compliance, and Other Matters of the Michigan Military Retirement Provisions (071-0158-24).

Sincerely,
Doug Ringler
Auditor General

The audit reports were referred to the Committee on Oversight.

By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to the order of

Introduction and Referral of Bills

Senators Hertel, Wojno, Bayer, Damoose, Polehanki, Geiss, Chang, Shink and McMorro introduced **Senate Bill No. 774, entitled**

A bill to amend 1939 PA 280, entitled "The social welfare act," by amending section 109 (MCL 400.109), as amended by 2022 PA 98.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

Senators Wojno, Hertel, Bayer, Damoose, Polehanki, Geiss, Chang, Shink and McMorro introduced **Senate Bill No. 775, entitled**

A bill to amend 1956 PA 218, entitled "The insurance code of 1956," (MCL 500.100 to 500.8302) by adding section 3406jj.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Health Policy.

Senators Lindsey, Bumstead, Daley, Runestad, Victory, McBroom, Damoose, Huizenga, Nesbitt, Lauwers, Bellino, Webber, Hauck, Outman, Johnson and Albert introduced

Senate Bill No. 776, entitled

A bill to amend 1937 PA 94, entitled "Use tax act," by amending section 2 (MCL 205.92), as amended by 2023 PA 94.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection.

Senators Lindsey, Bumstead, Daley, Runestad, Victory, McBroom, Damoose, Huizenga, Nesbitt, Lauwers, Bellino, Webber, Hauck, Outman, Johnson and Albert introduced

Senate Bill No. 777, entitled

A bill to amend 1933 PA 167, entitled “General sales tax act,” by amending section 1 (MCL 205.51), as amended by 2023 PA 20.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection.

Senators Wojno, Shink, Lauwers, Singh, Bayer, Hertel and Geiss introduced

Senate Bill No. 778, entitled

A bill to create the community risk reduction fund in the state treasury; to require licensure or registration for automatic fire protection system installation and sponsors of continuing education; to prescribe penalties and civil sanctions; to provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities; to provide for the promulgation of rules; and to create the sprinkler fitter exam committee.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Regulatory Affairs.

Senators Santana and McBroom entered the Senate Chamber.

Senator Albert introduced

Senate Bill No. 779, entitled

A bill to amend 1949 PA 300, entitled “Michigan vehicle code,” by amending section 653a (MCL 257.653a), as amended by 2018 PA 349; and to repeal acts and parts of acts.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Senator Albert introduced

Senate Bill No. 780, entitled

A bill to make, supplement, and adjust appropriations for various state departments and agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024; to provide for certain conditions on appropriations; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

The bill was read a first and second time by title and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

Recess

Senator Singh moved that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair.

The motion prevailed, the time being 10:05 a.m.

11:09 a.m.

The Senate was called to order by the Assistant President pro tempore, Senator Geiss.

During the recess, Senator Cherry entered the Senate Chamber.

By unanimous consent the Senate returned to the order of

Third Reading of Bills

Senator Singh moved that the Senate proceed to consideration of the following bill:

Senate Bill No. 481

The motion prevailed.

The following bill was read a third time:

Senate Bill No. 481, entitled

A bill to amend 2006 PA 317, entitled “An act to create certain entities in the Michigan strategic fund; to impose certain duties and responsibilities on those entities and on certain state employees and public employees; and to repeal acts and parts of acts,” by amending section 2 (MCL 125.1972), as amended by 2010 PA 337.

The question being on the passage of the bill,

The bill was passed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor, as follows:

Roll Call No. 49

Yeas—38

Albert	Daley	Lauwers	Polehanki
Anthony	Damoose	Lindsey	Runestad
Bayer	Geiss	McBroom	Santana
Bellino	Hauck	McCann	Shink
Brinks	Hertel	McDonald Rivet	Singh
Bumstead	Hoitenga	McMorrow	Theis
Camilleri	Huizenga	Moss	Victory
Cavanagh	Irwin	Nesbitt	Webber
Chang	Johnson	Outman	Wojno
Cherry	Klinefelt		

Nays—0

Excused—0

Not Voting—0

In The Chair: Geiss

The Senate agreed to the title of the bill.

The following bill was read a third time:

Senate Bill No. 544, entitled

A bill to amend 1980 PA 299, entitled “Occupational code,” (MCL 339.101 to 339.2677) by adding article 18A.

The question being on the passage of the bill,

The bill was passed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor, as follows:

Roll Call No. 50

Yeas—26

Albert	Cherry	Klinefelt	Santana
Anthony	Damoose	McCann	Shink
Bayer	Geiss	McDonald Rivet	Singh
Brinks	Hauck	McMorrow	Victory
Camilleri	Hertel	Moss	Webber
Cavanagh	Huizenga	Polehanki	Wojno
Chang	Irwin		

Nays—12

Bellino	Hoitenga	Lindsey	Outman
Bumstead	Johnson	McBroom	Runestad
Daley	Lauwers	Nesbitt	Theis

Excused—0

Not Voting—0

In The Chair: Geiss

The Senate agreed to the title of the bill.

Senator Klinefelt asked and was granted unanimous consent to make a statement and moved that the statement be printed in the Journal.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Klinefelt’s statement is as follows:

This bill, as well as Senate Bill No. 545 if I may speak to it—with COVID came the rise of storage facilities for bodies and we became aware that we don’t have any regulations with regard to transport and storage and treating bodies with respect and also treating them in a manner that is healthy for the rest of us. That’s all these bills are.

The following bill was read a third time:

Senate Bill No. 545, entitled

A bill to amend 1979 PA 152, entitled “State license fee act,” (MCL 338.2201 to 338.2277) by adding section 43a.

The question being on the passage of the bill,

The bill was passed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor, as follows:

Roll Call No. 51

Yeas—26

Albert	Cherry	Klinefelt	Santana
Anthony	Damoose	McCann	Shink
Bayer	Geiss	McDonald Rivet	Singh
Brinks	Hauck	McMorrow	Victory
Camilleri	Hertel	Moss	Webber
Cavanagh	Huizenga	Polehanki	Wojno
Chang	Irwin		

Nays—12

Bellino	Hoitenga	Lindsey	Outman
Bumstead	Johnson	McBroom	Runestad
Daley	Lauwers	Nesbitt	Theis

Excused—0

Not Voting—0

In The Chair: Geiss

The Senate agreed to the title of the bill.

The following bill was read a third time:

Senate Bill No. 567, entitled

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled “The revised school code,” by amending section 1280f (MCL 380.1280f), as amended by 2023 PA 224.

The question being on the passage of the bill, Senator Irwin offered the following substitute: Substitute (S-3).

The question being on the adoption of the substitute, Senator Johnson offered the following amendments to the substitute:

1. Amend page 5, line 14, after the second “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
2. Amend page 5, line 21, after the second “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
3. Amend page 7, line 11, after “**than**” by striking out “**January 1, 2026,**” and inserting “**October 1, 2025,**”.
4. Amend page 7, line 23, after “**than**” by striking out “**January 1, 2026,**” and inserting “**October 1, 2025,**”.
5. Amend page 7, line 28, after “**August 1,**” by striking out “**2027,**” and inserting “**2026,**”.
6. Amend page 8, line 15, after the second “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
7. Amend page 10, line 9, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
8. Amend page 20, line 18, after the second “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
9. Amend page 22, line 20, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
10. Amend page 23, line 5, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
11. Amend page 23, line 19, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
12. Amend page 23, line 29, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
13. Amend page 24, line 10, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
14. Amend page 24, line 18, after the second “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
15. Amend page 27, line 25, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.
16. Amend page 28, line 18, after “**the**” by striking out “**2027-2028**” and inserting “**2026-2027**”.

The question being on the adoption of the amendments, Senator Lauwers requested the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered, 1/5 of the members present voting therefor.

The amendments were not adopted, a majority of the members not voting therefor, as follows:

Roll Call No. 52

Yeas—18

Albert	Hauck	Lindsey	Runestad
Bellino	Hoitenga	McBroom	Theis
Bumstead	Huizenga	Nesbitt	Victory
Daley	Johnson	Outman	Webber
Damoose	Lauwers		

Nays—20

Anthony	Chang	Klinefelt	Polehanki
Bayer	Cherry	McCann	Santana
Brinks	Geiss	McDonald Rivet	Shink
Camilleri	Hertel	McMorrow	Singh
Cavanagh	Irwin	Moss	Wojno

Excused—0

Not Voting—0

In The Chair: Geiss

The question being on the adoption of the substitute, The substitute was adopted, a majority of the members serving voting therefor. The question being on the passage of the bill, The bill was passed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor, as follows:

Roll Call No. 53

Yeas—37

Albert	Daley	Klinefelt	Polehanki
Anthony	Damoose	Lauwers	Runestad
Bayer	Geiss	Lindsey	Santana
Bellino	Hauck	McCann	Shink
Brinks	Hertel	McDonald Rivet	Singh
Bumstead	Hoitenga	McMorrow	Theis
Camilleri	Huizenga	Moss	Victory
Cavanagh	Irwin	Nesbitt	Webber
Chang	Johnson	Outman	Wojno
Cherry			

Nays—1

McBroom

Excused—0

Not Voting—0

In The Chair: Geiss

The Senate agreed to the title of the bill.

Senators Johnson, Irwin, Hauck, Shink and Runestad asked and were granted unanimous consent to make statements and moved that the statements be printed in the Journal.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Johnson’s statement is as follows:

I rise to support my amendments to the S-3 substitute. I appreciate all the work that’s been put into this very important legislation. No skill is more vital to the success of Michigan students—our children—than the ability to read. Yet, currently, we are failing them. Two-thirds—that’s two out of three—of our state’s 4th and 8th graders cannot read at grade level. We heard testimony in committee that there are zip codes in Michigan where only 4 percent of our students can read at grade level. If we don’t fix this as soon as possible, that means 96 percent of these kids are robbed—robbed of their opportunities and a future they deserve. We cannot wait to address this crisis. Michigan’s third-grade reading scores have fallen 11 places since 2019, to 43rd in this country.

Currently in the substitute before us, important changes to help teachers identify and help students with reading difficulties would not take full effect until the 2027-2028 school year. This is a problem the Legislature should not drag their feet on. There are validated tests available right now from vendors to screen children for dyslexia and characteristics of dyslexia. Pushing back the implementation of this legislation a full two years from what was originally introduced is unnecessary and will hurt our children and our state.

My amendments would still give schools and test developers an additional nine months—a full year, 12 months in total—as opposed to the three months that was introduced in the original version. And my amendments would still give school districts an additional year from this time to prepare to meet the other requirements in the bill, moving the implementation date to the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year as opposed to the 2027-2028 school year which is contained in the current version of the S-3 substitute before us.

We heard compelling testimony in committee of the lifelong impacts that reading difficulties have on people in our state. How many more children must wait for us to act? I ask my colleagues to support these amendments.

Senator Irwin's first statement is as follows:

First I want to just start with a hearty thank you for the Senator from the 24th District. It's been great working with her and all the members here, all the colleagues, and talking about this important literacy legislation. I genuinely appreciate the vigor with which she advocated for her amendments and also all the nice things she said about the legislation. I agree that it's vitally important.

But one thing about me that maybe most people in this room don't know is that I'm originally from Sault Ste. Marie. When I was a small boy, I would stand on the shores of the St. Marys River and watch the lake freighters go by—you know, these beautiful thousand-footers, and they're majestic machines. One of the things that you learn pretty quickly when you're boating on the St. Marys River or using it in a recreational way is that these great ships don't turn very fast. They turn very very slowly. I just want to remark that while the changes in Senate Bill No. 567 are incredibly important, our school systems are a big machine. They're a big ship that's hard to turn. While we've been negotiating with our school leaders about how and whether to implement this good policy, one of the things they've asked for is the time to implement these changes in a thoughtful, planful, and cost-efficient way. So, through the process we have made these changes to bring these changes into our literacy programs a little more slowly, and while I appreciate the sentiment of the Senator from the 24th District that this is urgently important, I also think we need to make this work. That's why I urge a "no" vote and urge that we give our school districts the time to turn that massive freighter.

Senator Hauck's statement is as follows:

To me these amendments make perfect sense. If you're a parent, grandparent, what would you do if your child was having trouble reading and the school came, We understand that, but you have to wait two years before you could help? There's no way anybody in this chamber would settle for that. I urge a "yes" vote on these amendments.

Senator Irwin's second statement is as follows:

First I want to start with some thank-yous because this legislation we've been working on for a long time. I would be remiss if I didn't start by giving a hearty thank you to my colleagues across the aisle from the 22nd and 23rd districts. This legislation didn't start this year; it started years ago. There needs to be more working across the aisle and more bipartisanship in this chamber and I want to tell those colleagues directly here on the floor that even though there are times we disagree, this has been a good effort and I've really appreciated your work with me on this legislation. I also want to thank our Senate leadership for bringing this forward, and I particularly want to thank the chair of the Senate Education Committee, the Senator from the 5th District, who's also the sponsor of the companion bill, Senate Bill No. 568.

With those thank-yous out of the way, I just want to say that this legislation is so important, so important. Literacy is the foundational skill upon which all further education is built and it is the key that unlocks every other subject in school. If kids don't learn to read, if they don't learn to become expert readers, then they're not going to be able to be successful in their future education. When you zero in on literacy and reading, which is the foundational skill for education, what I found is that phonics are the foundational skill to literacy. Phonics and the ability to decode the language is essential to comprehension and vocabulary and all the other skills that we expect young people to attain.

This is why we need legislation to improve our literacy rates and to improve our literacy education here in Michigan. We propose to do that by weaving the science of reading into our early elementary assessments, into our instruction, and into our teacher training. Now, these changes are incredibly important for kids who struggle with characteristics of dyslexia. I want to thank all the families and all the students who came to committee to testify this year and in previous years to talk about how important it was to them. By screening for dyslexia and phonemic awareness, we can get kids the help they need earlier and we can make sure that we get them on track for their future education. But this isn't just going to help kids with characteristics of dyslexia. The research shows that this helps all kids. Every single person needs to develop and master these foundational skills of literacy. This is incredibly important, not just because of everything we know about reading is fundamental, but because of the statistics we just heard a moment ago from the Senator from the 24th District. We have a real crisis with literacy in Michigan. If you listen to the people who do economic development, if you listen to the business leaders of Michigan, they say Michigan needs to be a top-10 state for education, should be a top-10 state for college attainment, a top-10 state for literacy. We are nowhere close to being a top-10 state on reading and literacy; we're in the basement and getting worse. Michigan used to be a leading state, but now as my colleague from across the aisle pointed out, Michigan is 43rd in the nation in the most recent reading scores, and there are some districts that struggle even more with getting their kids to pass reading tests in 4th grade. It's incredibly important to get those scores up.

It's incredibly important to resource these young people with the skills to be successful, but it's also important in another way. It's important to improving the environment in our classrooms. One of the most powerful things I heard when talking to kids who struggled with dyslexia is when a young man said to me, When I was a student and I was struggling to read, I acted out and I did that because it was easier to be a bad kid than a stupid kid. We need to help these kids.

Senator Shink’s statement is as follows:

I rise today in support of Senate Bill Nos. 567 and 568. I want to thank all the people and Senators who’ve worked on this, especially my colleague from Washtenaw County who I know has been working on this for quite a few years. My husband and children are dyslexic and although my husband would not want me to be saying this here today, I think it’s important. When I met him, he said he could not read until he was in the 8th grade. He grew up in the ’60s and ’70s so that was then; we can do better now. My children are dyslexic, and I knew from a very young age that they would be because of signs they showed, even before they attained the age where we would expect them to read. School screening did not detect their dyslexia. The screening happened because of my advocacy and thousands of dollars. They were relieved when they had an official diagnosis when they were school age. For years I didn’t work out of the home to make sure they got the support they needed, and now they are all-A students at U of M, one in undergrad and one in grad school.

I know that when kids get what they need, they can succeed, but other kids were left to struggle. Some kids weren’t screened, and some didn’t get the help they needed. They struggled on, essentially alone. Sometimes this resulted in bad behavior. Others grew up thinking they were dumb. It leads to poor education and other outcomes when kids aren’t screened. They appreciate it. Dyslexia is something we can solve with proper intervention. Screening is the first step and I appreciate my colleagues’ work on this.

Senator Runestad’s statement is as follows:

I’m very pleased that we have come to this point when we’re having an opportunity to pass a bill package that is going to make, I believe, a difference. It isn’t a perfect bill package. I talked to activists. I’ve been working on this for years and years and years, and they’ve all said that Michigan is by far the worst state in the nation for a dyslexic student and the numbers never seem to move. In fact, as long as I’ve been here, they seem to be going down. If we don’t deal with dyslexia by identifying which students have an issue and then get the intervention, nothing is going to change. This is, even with an imperfect package, it’s a huge improvement over what we currently have. I can’t thank enough the Senator from the 15th District. We have had more discussions than I can remember over years and years about, What are the obstacles, and he has worked relentlessly to overcome those.

I remember back when I was in 4th grade, I had a very difficult time reading. Fortunately for me, there was a traveling troupe of college students who came into town. I have no idea who paid for it, but they were all college freshmen and sophomores. All of us who had identified as having a reading problem got, over the entire summer, intensive reading intervention that went on four hours per day for the entire summer. It was all phonics-based. I immediately began to decode and figure this out. It was such a—important thing for me, so I’m very pleased we’re doing it. Thank you.

The following bill was read a third time:

Senate Bill No. 568, entitled

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled “The revised school code,” (MCL 380.1 to 380.1852) by adding section 1531e.

The question being on the passage of the bill,

The bill was passed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor, as follows:

Roll Call No. 54

Yeas—38

Albert	Daley	Lauwers	Polehanki
Anthony	Damoose	Lindsey	Runestad
Bayer	Geiss	McBroom	Santana
Bellino	Hauck	McCann	Shink
Brinks	Hertel	McDonald Rivet	Singh
Bumstead	Hoitenga	McMorrow	Theis
Camilleri	Huizenga	Moss	Victory
Cavanagh	Irwin	Nesbitt	Webber
Chang	Johnson	Outman	Wojno
Cherry	Klinefelt		

Nays—0

Excused—0

Not Voting—0

In The Chair: Geiss

The Senate agreed to the title of the bill.

By unanimous consent the Senate returned to the order of
Motions and Communications

The following communication was received:
Office of Senator Erika Geiss

March 12, 2024

I am requesting to be added as a co-sponsor on the following Senate Bills: 741, 742, 743, 772, and 773.
Thank you!

Sincerely,
State Senator Erika Geiss
District 1

The communication was referred to the Secretary for record.

By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to the order of
Resolutions

Senator Singh moved that rule 3.204 be suspended to permit immediate consideration of the following resolution:
Senate Resolution No. 101
The motion prevailed, a majority of the members serving voting therefor.

Senator Anthony offered the following resolution:
Senate Resolution No. 101.

A resolution to designate March 12, 2024, as Equal Pay Day.

Whereas, It has been 61 years since the passage of the Equal Pay Act. Even with the passage of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act just one year later, women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay differentials; and

Whereas, Equal Pay Day takes place on the day of the year on which the earnings of women catch up to the average earnings of men. The calculation is based on the 2019 United States Census data on median earnings for full-time, year-round workers. Women on average make 82 cents compared to one dollar for men on average in the United States; and

Whereas, Pay discrimination also heavily impacts women in other ethnic and racial groups, with significant disparities seen for Black, Native American, Latina, and Asian American and Pacific Islander women; and

Whereas, Over a working lifetime, wage disparity costs the average American woman and her family, impacting retirement savings programs, Social Security benefits, and pensions. This has contributed to an overarching wealth gap between men and women, with women owning only 32 cents for every dollar owned by men; and

Whereas, Ongoing wage disparities for women are further exacerbated by significant shocks to the economy, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Labor force participation among women in Michigan fell nearly six percent during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to less than one percent for men, furthering wage and wealth inequality. Economic forecasters estimate the COVID-19 pandemic will likely lead to significant challenges for women in the labor market in the future, including lower wages and fewer job opportunities; and

Whereas, Pay discrimination based on any factor is wrong. Employees should be compensated by their employers based solely on their merits; and

Whereas, Fair pay strengthens the security of families today and eases future retirement costs, while enhancing the American economy; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body designate March 12, 2024, as Equal Pay Day. We encourage Michigan's citizens to recognize the full value of women's skills and significant contributions to the labor force.

The question being on the adoption of the resolution,

The resolution was adopted.

Senators Brinks, Cherry, Geiss, McCann, Moss and Singh were named co-sponsors of the resolution.

Senator Anthony asked and was granted unanimous consent to make a statement and moved that the statement be printed in the Journal.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Anthony's statement is as follows:

While I often rise to discuss the positive issues that are happening in our district and in our state, today I want to talk a little bit about Equal Pay Day. Now while this marks an important date on our annual calendar, it's not a good one. Today marks how far into a new year, in this case 72 days, women have to work to earn as much on average as our male counterparts did in 2023. It has been 61 years since the passage of the Equal Pay Act, and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act was passed just a year later. But despite these important efforts and progress, we still have a ways to go.

Unfortunately, in our country and our state, women and people of color continue to suffer the consequences of inequitable pay differentials. Women, on average, make 82 cents compared to the dollar for men making on an average in the United States over a lifetime, wage disparity costs on average for Michigan women and for women across the country and their families, and it impacts the retirement savings program, social security benefits, and pensions. This has contributed to an overarching wealth gap between men and women, with women owning only 32 cents for every dollar owned by men.

Today also marks Equal Pay Day for all women. Now, pay discrimination also heavily impacts women of color, including African American women, native women, Latinas, and Asian American and Pacific Islander women. This means that equal pay dates are even worse depending on your race and your standing in life. Stronger legal protections against wage discrimination at the federal level have made some significant progress and have wins for women across the country, but it's not enough to provide legal rights around wage discrimination. We want to stop wage discrimination in the first place.

Now there are some areas and opportunity for us to be very hopeful. On the local, state, and federal level, women are finally in positions of power—you can even look around this chamber. We currently have 15 women, both on the Republican and Democratic side, leading. Simply put, there are more women in seats, at tables, and we should be utilizing these seats and our voices much more effectively to finally address Equal Pay Day. Together we can fight for better wages, more accessible and affordable healthcare, and finally close the gap between men and women. I encourage Michigan citizens to recognize the full value of women's skills and significant contributions to our labor force, in recognizing hopefully one of the last Equal Pay Days in Michigan and across the country.

By unanimous consent the Senate returned to the order of

General Orders

Senator Singh moved that the Senate resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole for consideration of the General Orders calendar.

The motion prevailed, and the Assistant President pro tempore, Senator Geiss, designated Senator Theis as Chairperson.

After some time spent therein, the Committee arose; and the Assistant President pro tempore, Senator Geiss, having resumed the Chair, the Committee reported back to the Senate, favorably and with a substitute therefor, the following bill:

Senate Bill No. 691, entitled

A bill to amend 1965 PA 232, entitled "Agricultural commodities marketing act," by amending section 8 (MCL 290.658), as amended by 2002 PA 601.

Substitute (S-1).

The Senate agreed to the substitute recommended by the Committee of the Whole, and the bill as substituted was placed on the order of Third Reading of Bills.

By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to the order of
Statements

Senator Runestad asked and was granted unanimous consent to make a statement and moved that the statement be printed in the Journal.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Runestad’s statement is as follows:

Michigan—as I have been predicting for months, the Democrats are poised to raise taxes on the things you have to have. The Democrats have been gorging exquisitely on the federal fund feast like there’s no tomorrow. In my nine years in the Legislature, I never acquired the insatiable appetite for the unlimited pure lard that so many colleagues have become accustomed. The special-interest gigantic no-bid-contract pork barrel projects in the \$83 billion record-breaking wastrel would likely cause Porky Pig himself to blush with jealousy. In fact, watching the Frankenstein-like record-busting \$83 billion squanderbust budget, coupled with the engorging of the \$9 billion one-time bonanza was dizzying. I haven’t seen that much lard all in one place since I observed a huge dumpster overflowing behind a liposuction clinic. The Democrats blew through the \$9 billion federal surplus dollars often using gigantic posterboard photo-op checks praising the local bacon of their pork barrel projects.

So let’s take a quick look at a few of these vital taxpayer-essentials. Five hundred thousand for a hip-hop academy in Detroit. A million for a splash pad in Ann Arbor. A million for an equestrian riding center in Detroit. Two million for a curling facility in Grand Rapids. Five hundred thousand for an electric boat charging station—I wonder who gets that benefit. Six million for a Jim Crow artifacts museum. Twenty million for a Greektown redevelopment. And swimming pools, boat docks, pickle board courts, and on and on and on—piles and piles of sweetheart goodies that no taxpayer should be forced to pay for. But as I predicted, after the Democrats gobbled up the entire blubber-filled \$9 billion pork fest in one single gulp, the withdrawal symptoms would soon begin. So now the party’s over, the hangover is just beginning, the Democrats now need a fix to stop the withdrawal symptoms. And taxpayer, they have got you in their sights.

The solution to continuing the high, continuing the gravy train is to hit you, the taxpayer, square in the pocketbook with across-the-board tax and rate increases and brand new spending. The Democrats need to quickly pivot to raising taxes and fees on a host of vital services that you have to have. Sure enough, like clockwork, the Governor’s appointed Public Service Commission just announced another gigantic increase of \$92 million to hit the energy ratepayers like a 2x4 to the forehead. They also rolled out a plan to slap on new taxes on you whenever you sell your home to fund reduced rent and subsidized housing to communities all over the state of Michigan. Next, they’re slapping on water rate increases on the backs of those who pay their water bills to give free or reduced water to those who do not. Then the Governor is proposing a new thousand-percent increase on the tipping fees that should be limited to out-of-state and Canadian trash, but instead the majority will be passed onto Michigan residents and businesses who still produce the bulk of the landfills. In fact, Governor Whitmer’s budget proposals are so many in new fees that they’re too numerous for me to list, but she’s calling for new fee increases totaling \$27.6 million.

Finally, the Democrats are allowing your income taxes to creep back up from 4.05 percent up to 4.25 percent. Some things never change, and the Democrats take from those who work and produce and spend, spend, spend, utilizing unlimited public dollars to buy votes.

Announcements of Printing and Enrollment

The Secretary announced that the following bills were printed and filed on Friday, March 8, and are available on the Michigan Legislature website:

Senate Bill Nos.	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757
	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770
	771	772	773										

Committee Reports

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Committee on Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety submitted the following:
Meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 12:00 noon, Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building
Present: Senators Chang (C), Shink, Wojno, Irwin, Santana, Runestad and Johnson

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections & Judiciary submitted the following:
Meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 1:45 p.m., Room 1300, Binsfeld Office Building
Present: Senators Shink (C), Santana, Irwin and Outman

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Appropriations Subcommittee on EGLE submitted the following:
Meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Room 403, 4th Floor, Capitol Building
Present: Senators Irwin (C), Singh, Shink, Cherry, Bayer, Hauck and Outman
Excused: Senator Bumstead

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation submitted the following:
Meeting held on Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building
Present: Senators Klinefelt (C), Hertel and McCann
Absent: Senators Camilleri, Damoose and Bumstead

Scheduled Meetings

Appropriations –

Subcommittees –

Agriculture and Natural Resources – Wednesday, March 13, 12:00 noon, Room 1300, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-2768

Corrections & Judiciary – Thursday, March 14, 1:30 p.m., Room 1300, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-2768

General Government – Wednesday, March 13, 3:00 p.m., Room 1300, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-2768

Civil Rights, Judiciary and Public Safety – Thursday, March 14, 12:00 noon, Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-5312

Elections and Ethics – Wednesday, March 13, 2:00 p.m., Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-1721

Health Policy – Wednesday, March 13, 1:00 p.m., Room 1100, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-5323

Oversight – Wednesday, March 13, 9:00 a.m., Room 1200, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-5314

Regulatory Affairs – Thursday, March 14, 9:00 a.m., Room 1100, Binsfeld Office Building (517) 373-1721

Senator Singh moved that the Senate adjourn.
The motion prevailed, the time being 11:53 a.m.

The Assistant President pro tempore, Senator Geiss, declared the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

DANIEL OBERLIN
Secretary of the Senate

