

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
HARRISBURG

PROCLAMATION

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Article II, Section 4; Article IV, Section 12; and Article III, Section 12, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, I, Thomas J. Ridge, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby convene the General Assembly in special and extraordinary session, to meet in the Capitol, at Harrisburg, on Monday, March 11, 1996, at 1:00 o'clock p.m., to consider legislation upon the following subjects:

(1) Authorization of debt in the form of an emergency bond issue to meet Federal requirements to receive public assistance funds as defined in the Federal Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.) for the rehabilitation or reconstruction of public and nonprofit facilities damaged or destroyed by the blizzard of January 1996 and the resulting flood emergency. Authorization to use up to 5 percent of the proceeds of the bond issue for the cost of rehabilitation or reconstruction of public and nonprofit facilities not met by the Federal Government. Authorization of the use of the proceeds from the bond issue to enable the Commonwealth to contribute to projects eligible for Federal flood mitigation projects in areas affected by the blizzard of January 1996 and the resulting flood emergency.

(2) Legislation and appropriations necessary to meet Federal requirements to receive individual assistance as defined in the Federal Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-288, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.) consistent with Article VIII, Section 17, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, using funds from the Rainy Day Fund and the tax amnesty program. Legislation to supplement individual assistance available under Federal programs.

(3) Authorization of municipal tax abatement for property lost or damaged as a result of the blizzard of January 1996 and the resulting flood emergency.

(4) Legislation amending the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Law to conform it to Federal law, to enhance early warning systems, to allow the Governor to suspend fees relating to debris removal during a disaster and to increase the amount of funds which the Governor is authorized to reallocate in the event of a disaster.

(5) Legislation to enhance the Department of Transportation's ability to enter into contracts in the event of a Federal- or State-declared emergency.

(6) Authorization and funding for bridges, roads and highways due to the extraordinary expenses incurred on account of the blizzard of January 1996 and the resulting flood emergency.

- (7) Legislation requiring that the Insurance Commissioner advertise the availability and importance of flood insurance.
- (8) Authorization for the Commonwealth to participate in Federal mitigation projects.
- (9) Capital authorization for flood control projects.
- (10) Adoption of a resolution urging the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee in the House of Representatives and the State Government Committee in the Senate to review coordination between State and local agencies during an emergency.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this thirteenth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six, and of the Commonwealth the two hundred and twentieth.

THOMAS J. RIDGE
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Yvette Kane
Secretary of the Commonwealth