
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 10 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, ROTHMAN, GREINER, PICKETT, IRVIN, LEWIS,
BOBACK, MILLARD, COOK, TOOHIL, JAMES, GLEIM, STAMBAUGH,
KEEFER, MOUL AND SANKEY, JANUARY 11, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 11, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Adopting permanent rules for the House of Representatives,
2 further providing for government oversight committees.

3 RESOLVED, That the Permanent Rules of the House of
4 Representatives (2019-2020) be adopted as the Permanent Rules of
5 the House of Representatives for the 2021-2022 session of the
6 House of Representatives with the following amendments to the
7 heading and Rule 45(a):

8 [2019-2020] 2021-2022

9 GENERAL OPERATING RULES

10 OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 * * *

12 RULE 45 (a)

13 Government Oversight Committee

14 The Government Oversight Committee shall consist of nine
15 members, five of whom shall be members of the majority party
16 appointed by the Majority Leader and four of whom shall be
17 members of the minority party appointed by the Minority Leader.

1 The Majority Leader shall appoint the chair and secretary for
2 the committee. The Minority Leader shall appoint the minority
3 chair for the committee. A majority of the members of the
4 committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 The members of the committee shall first meet upon the call
6 of the chair and perfect its organization. The committee shall
7 have the power to promulgate rules not inconsistent with this
8 rule or the Rules of the House that may be necessary for the
9 orderly conduct of its business.

10 The chair of the committee shall notify all members on the
11 committee at least 24 hours in advance of the date, time and
12 place of meetings and, insofar as possible, the subjects on the
13 agenda. Meetings may be called from time to time by the chair of
14 the committee as the chair deems necessary.

15 The committee shall be authorized and empowered to do all of
16 the following:

17 (1) Conduct oversight hearings to determine whether an issue
18 warrants an investigation under subsection (2).

19 (2) Conduct hearings at any place in this Commonwealth to
20 investigate any matter referred to the committee by the Speaker,
21 the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader. Referred matters
22 shall relate to executive agencies and administrative actions
23 and may not include matters which are:

24 (a) under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ethics;

25 (b) under the jurisdiction of the Committee on
26 Appropriations, except matters which may incidentally include
27 information related to expenditures of public money; or

28 (c) within the scope of an adopted House resolution
29 authorizing and empowering a standing committee, subcommittee or
30 select committee to investigate any matter.

1 Unless in conflict with the provisions of this rule, Rule 51
2 shall be applicable to hearings of the committee concerning
3 referred matters.

4 [(2)] (3) Any action necessary to fulfill any assignment or
5 duty given to the committee by any resolution or other rule of
6 the House.

7 The committee may issue subpoenas for documents or testimony
8 as part of the investigation of any matter referred to the
9 committee. Notwithstanding any other rule of the House,
10 subpoenas issued under this rule shall be in the name of the
11 committee, shall be signed by the chair of the committee and
12 attested by another member of the committee who voted in favor
13 of either authorizing the subpoena or authorizing the chair to
14 issue subpoenas.

15 A subpoena issued by the committee may be served upon any
16 person and shall have the force and effect of a subpoena issued
17 out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Subpoenas shall be
18 served by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House or other person
19 designated by the committee when directed to do so by the
20 committee. Each subpoena shall be addressed to the witness and
21 shall state that the proceeding is before a committee of the
22 House for which the witness is required to attend and testify at
23 a specified time and place; or to produce books, papers,
24 records, accounts, reports, documents and data and information
25 produced and stored by any electronic data processing system; or
26 both, as the committee may also require. All subpoenaed items
27 shall be maintained and returned in accordance with Rule 51.
28 Mileage and witness fees shall be paid by the House to the
29 witness in an amount prescribed by law. A person who willfully
30 neglects or refuses to comply with a subpoena issued by the

1 committee shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws
2 of this Commonwealth with respect to such willful neglect or
3 refusal. The committee may quash or modify the subpoena if it
4 finds the subpoena to be overly broad or without proper purpose.
5 Each member of the committee shall have power to administer
6 oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before the
7 committee.

8 Upon completion of the investigation of any matter referred
9 to the committee, the committee shall file a final report with
10 the House. A final report of a referred matter shall not be
11 considered in the committee unless the report has been available
12 to committee members for at least three days before
13 consideration, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays,
14 unless the House is in session on those days. A report on a
15 referred matter shall be adopted by a majority vote of the
16 committee members to which the committee is entitled, present at
17 a committee session actually assembled and meeting as a
18 committee. Members of the committee may prepare in writing and
19 file a minority report, setting forth the reasons for their
20 dissent. Such committee reports shall be filed with the Chief
21 Clerk within five days of the meeting.

22 The committee shall not continue to exist after sine die
23 adjournment of the General Assembly. Investigation of any
24 referred matter before the committee that has not been concluded
25 or disposed of by [October 31] November 30 of the second year of
26 a legislative term shall cease on such date, and all documents,
27 reports, communications, transcripts and other materials
28 compiled by the committee for such matters shall be collected,
29 organized and submitted to the Chief Clerk under seal for
30 transition to the reconstituted committee consisting of members

1 appointed from the incoming General Assembly. These materials
2 shall be held in a secure manner and nothing in this rule shall
3 authorize the Chief Clerk or any other person to view such
4 materials. Within 30 days following the reconstitution of the
5 committee in the next succeeding legislative term, the committee
6 shall review such materials and determine whether or not to
7 proceed with a referred matter investigated by the former
8 committee.