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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 196 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, MADDEN, GUENST, INNAMORATO, CIRESI,  
CURRY, D. WILLIAMS AND LEE, APRIL 25, 2022

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 25, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives, further  
2 providing for powers and duties of standing committees and  
3 subcommittees.

4 RESOLVED, That Rule 45 of the Rules of the House of  
5 Representatives be amended to read:

6 RULE 45

7 Powers and Duties of Standing Committees  
8 and Subcommittees

9 The chair of each standing committee and subcommittee shall  
10 fix regular weekly, biweekly or monthly meeting days for the  
11 transaction of business before the committee or subcommittee.  
12 The chair of the committee or subcommittee shall notify all  
13 members, at least 24 hours in advance of the date, time and  
14 place of regular meetings, and, insofar as possible, the  
15 subjects on the agenda. In addition to regular meetings, special  
16 meetings may be called from time to time by the chair of the  
17 committee or subcommittee as they deem necessary. No recess or  
18 combination of recesses shall exceed 48 hours for any committee

1 meeting or subcommittee meeting. No committee shall meet during  
2 any session of the House without first obtaining permission of  
3 the Speaker. During any such meeting, no vote shall be taken on  
4 the Floor of the House on any amendment, recommittal motion,  
5 final passage of any bill, or any other matter requiring a roll  
6 call vote. Any committee meeting called off the Floor of the  
7 House shall meet in a committee room. In addition to the  
8 specific provisions of this rule, all provisions of 65 Pa.C.S.  
9 Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings) relative to notice of meetings  
10 shall be complied with.

11 At regularly scheduled meetings, or upon the call of the  
12 chair, or subcommittee chair, for special meetings, the  
13 membership of such committees shall meet to consider any bill,  
14 resolution, or other matter on the agenda. The secretary of each  
15 standing committee, or in case of subcommittees a secretary  
16 designated by the subcommittee chair, shall record:

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

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

1 attendance of members at standing committee or subcommittee  
2 meetings held prior thereto and not yet reported, along with the  
3 record of all votes taken at such meetings. All reports from  
4 standing committees shall be prepared in writing by the  
5 secretary of the committee. Members of a standing committee may  
6 prepare in writing and file a minority report, setting forth the  
7 reasons for their dissent. Such committee reports shall be filed  
8 with the Chief Clerk within five days of the meeting. All  
9 meetings at which formal action is taken by a standing committee  
10 or subcommittee shall be open to the public, making such reports  
11 as are required under Rule 44. When any member, except for an  
12 excused absence, fails to attend five consecutive regular  
13 meetings of his or her committee, the chair of that committee or  
14 subcommittee shall notify the member of that fact and, if the  
15 member in question fails to reasonably justify absences to the  
16 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 or subcommittee shall be deemed vacant and the chair  
19 of the standing committee shall notify the Speaker of the House  
20 to that effect. Such vacancy shall then be filled in the manner  
21 prescribed by 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 days  
25 written notice to the Speaker of the House, setting the time and  
26 place for such meeting. Such notice shall be read in the House  
27 and the same posted by the Chief Clerk in the House Chamber.  
28 Thereafter, the meeting shall be held at the time and place  
29 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.

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

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

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

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

1 is scheduled to convene at the same time or prior to the meeting  
2 at which a member desires to vote by proxy, such proxy shall be  
3 delivered to both the chair and minority chair prior to, but on  
4 the same day as, the conflicting meetings.]

5 At any voting meeting of a committee of the House of  
6 Representatives, a member of the committee who is not present  
7 may designate the chair or minority chair to cast the member's  
8 vote on any question. The designation shall be accomplished by  
9 filing an attestation with the chair or minority chair which  
10 affirms that the member will not be present at the voting  
11 meeting.

12 A member voting by designation shall be counted in  
13 determining whether a quorum is present.

14 At any voting meeting of a committee of the House of  
15 Representatives, a member of the committee may participate  
16 remotely and cast their vote on any question. The identity of  
17 the voting member must be verified by the chair.

18 The Chief Clerk shall fully implement video conferencing or  
19 similar remote participation technology to allow members voting  
20 by designation at any voting meeting of a standing committee of  
21 the House of Representatives to engage in simultaneous,  
22 interactive participation in the committee meeting. A voting  
23 meeting of a standing committee shall be held in a committee  
24 room utilizing video conferencing or similar remote  
25 participation technology unless such a room is not available.  
26 The video conferencing or similar remote participation  
27 technology must safeguard the integrity of the legislative  
28 process.

29 When the majority of the members of a standing committee  
30 believe that a certain bill or resolution in the possession of

1 the standing committee should be considered and acted upon by  
2 such committee, they may request the chair to include the same  
3 as part of the business of a committee meeting. Upon failure of  
4 the chair to comply with such request, the membership may  
5 require that such bill be considered by written motion made and  
6 approved by a majority vote of the entire membership to which  
7 such committee is entitled.

8 Whenever the phrase "majority of members of a standing  
9 committee or subcommittee" is used in these rules, it shall mean  
10 majority of the entire membership to which a standing committee  
11 or subcommittee is entitled, unless the context thereof  
12 indicates a different intent.

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

22 The Committee on Appropriations shall have the power to issue  
23 subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chair commanding any  
24 person to appear before it and answer questions touching matters  
25 properly being inquired into by the committee, which matters  
26 shall include data from any fund administered by the  
27 Commonwealth, and to produce such books, papers, records,  
28 accounts, reports, documents and data and information produced  
29 and stored by any electronic data processing system as the  
30 committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may be served upon any

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