
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 538 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VAZQUEZ, CRUZ, W. KELLER, DERMODY, DONATUCCI,
SCHLOSSBERG, P. COSTA, SIMS, KINSEY, MURT, NEILSON, MUSTIO,
WARREN, KIRKLAND, STURLA, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, BARRAR,
DAWKINS, LONGIETTI, VITALI, SOLOMON, MILLARD, MARSICO,
GOODMAN, DeLISSIO, ROZZI, THOMAS, DiGIROLAMO, BARBIN,
PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER, SAMUELSON AND McCARTER, OCTOBER 2, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 2, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to
2 make emergency financial resources available to assist Puerto
3 Rico and its residents in recovering from Hurricane Maria.

4 WHEREAS, Nearly two weeks after Puerto Rico sustained damage
5 caused by Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria made landfall in
6 Puerto Rico during the early hours of the morning of September
7 20, 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, According to a statement issued by the island's
9 emergency management officials, Puerto Rico has been destroyed
10 due to damaging rain and winds in excess of 155 mph; and

11 WHEREAS, In recent years Puerto Rico has been burdened by a
12 debt crisis exceeding \$9 billion, which resulted in the
13 bankruptcy of the island's utility service in July; and

14 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, necessary upgrades and improvements
15 to utility services have not been completed in recent years,
16 further jeopardizing the island's electrical grid and

1 infrastructure; and

2 WHEREAS, With an inadequate infrastructure already in place,
3 the result of damage sustained from Hurricane Maria has left the
4 residents of Puerto Rico without electricity and with extremely
5 limited cell phone service, emergency and medical services and
6 access to clean water and food supplies; and

7 WHEREAS, In some cases, the loss of communications has made
8 it virtually impossible for injured residents to call for or
9 receive lifesaving services; and

10 WHEREAS, Limited communications have also impacted much of
11 this Commonwealth's Puerto Rican population, who are unable to
12 reach family members located on the island; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks fourth nationwide in the number
14 of Puerto Ricans living in the United States, with this
15 Commonwealth's Puerto Rican population totaling nearly 366,000;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, One-third of this Commonwealth's total Puerto Rican
18 population resides in Philadelphia; and

19 WHEREAS, Sadly, residents of Puerto Rico face numerous
20 obstacles in their attempt to return to their normal, everyday
21 lives and have little hope of receiving emergency services in
22 the near future without the aid from the United States;

23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
25 President and the Congress of the United States to swiftly make
26 emergency financial resources available to assist Puerto Rico
27 and its residents in recovering from Hurricane Maria; and be it
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
30 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of

1 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
2 Pennsylvania.