
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 211 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, STREET, SCHWANK, FONTANA, RAFFERTY,
BROWNE, SABATINA AND FARNESE, OCTOBER 17, 2017

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 17, 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
17 infrastructure; and

18 WHEREAS, With an inadequate infrastructure already in place,

1 the result of damage sustained from Hurricane Maria has left the
2 residents of Puerto Rico without electricity and with extremely
3 limited cell phone service, emergency and medical services and
4 access to clean water and food supplies; and

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

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
23 urge the President and the Congress of the United States to
24 swiftly make emergency financial resources available to assist
25 Puerto Rico and its residents in recovering from Hurricane
26 Maria; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
28 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
29 each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
30 Pennsylvania.