

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 672

Session of  
1975

INTRODUCED BY M. E. MILLER, SHANE, KNEPPER, KISTLER, HOPKINS,  
KERNICK, BERLIN, MILLIRON, CIMINI, FISCHER, HASKELL, BURNS,  
WILSON, PRATT, McCLATCHY AND PYLES, MARCH 5, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 10, 1975

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 19, 1974 (No.175), entitled "An act  
2 requiring public agencies to hold certain meetings and  
3 hearings open to the public and providing penalties,"  
4 providing for public petition and discussion.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 2, act of July 19, 1974 (No.175),  
8 entitled "An act requiring public agencies to hold certain  
9 meetings and hearings open to the public and providing  
10 penalties," is amended to read:

11 Section 2. The meetings or hearings of every agency at which  
12 formal action is scheduled or taken are public meetings and  
13 shall be open to the public at all times. No formal action shall  
14 be valid unless such formal action is taken during a public  
15 meeting, nor shall any formal action, resolution, rule,  
16 regulation or ordinance be valid if public petition or  
17 discussion is requested and refused. If granted, however, the  
18 petition shall be presented and discussion shall be had during a

1 recess of the meeting of the agency, as the case may be; and  
2 minutes shall be taken by the secretary or a certified public  
3 stenographer as shall be determined by the agency. The length of  
4 the recess for the purpose of petition and discussion shall be  
5 fixed by the agency and may be extended should a majority of the  
6 agency deem it necessary or appropriate. In addition, the recess  
7 for the purpose of petition and discussion may be adjourned, for  
8 the purpose of extended discussion, to a time and place,  
9 respectively, within the political subdivision that is, in the  
10 judgment of the agency, appropriate to the purpose. It is  
11 further provided that upon conclusion or adjournment of the  
12 recess that the agency shall reconvene for the purpose of the  
13 official business of the agency and that said petitioners or  
14 discussants shall be no wise further participate in the official  
15 discussions or deliberations of the agency. The presiding  
16 officer of the agency shall enforce this provision and is  
17 herewith empowered to have any person or persons in violation  
18 removed from said meeting that the official business of the  
19 agency may proceed with order and decorum.