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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 26

Session of  
1975

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INTRODUCED BY MR. GLEASON, FEBRUARY 4, 1975

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEBRUARY 5, 1975

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In the House of Representatives, February 4, 1975

1       RESOLVED, That the first paragraph of Rule 51 of the Rules of  
2 the House of Representatives, be amended, and said rule is also  
3 amended by adding immediately following the third paragraph, a  
4 paragraph, to read:

5                                       RULE 51

6                                       Investigations

7       Any Standing Committee, Sub-committee or Select Committee,  
8 upon resolution introduced and approved by majority vote of the  
9 House, may be authorized and empowered to conduct hearings at  
10 any place in the Commonwealth to investigate any matter provided  
11 for in such resolution. When so authorized, such Committee shall  
12 be empowered to issue subpoenas by majority vote of the members  
13 of the Committee under the hand and seal of the Chairman thereof  
14 commanding any person to appear before it and answer questions  
15 touching matters properly being inquired into by the Committee  
16 and produce such books, papers, records, accounts, reports, and  
17 documents as the Committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may  
18 be served upon any person and shall have the force and effect of

1 subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Where  
2 any person willfully neglects or refuses to comply with any  
3 subpoena issued by the Committee or refuses to testify before  
4 the Committee on any matter regarding which he may be lawfully  
5 interrogated, it shall be the duty of the Committee to report  
6 such disobedience or refusal to the House of Representatives,  
7 and such person shall be subject to the penalties provided by  
8 the laws of the Commonwealth in such cases. Each member of the  
9 Committee shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations  
10 to witnesses appearing before the Committee. The Sergeant-at-  
11 Arms of the Legislature or other person designated by majority  
12 vote of the Committee the Committee shall serve any subpoenas  
13 issued by the Committee, when directed to do so by the  
14 Committee. The subpoena shall be addressed to the witness, state  
15 that such proceeding is before a Committee of the House at which  
16 the witness is required to attend and testify at a time and  
17 place certain and be signed by the Chairman of the Committee  
18 commanding attendance of such witness.

19 The Chairman of the investigative hearing shall call the  
20 Committee to order and announce in an opening statement the  
21 subject or purposes of the investigation.

22 A copy of this rule shall be made available to the witnesses.  
23 Witnesses at investigative hearings, may be accompanied by their  
24 own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their  
25 constitutional rights. The Chairman, for breaches of order or  
26 decorum or of professional ethics on the part of counsel, may  
27 censure him or exclude him from the hearing.

28 If in the opinion of the Chairman, cross-examination of any  
29 witness adverse to a represented witness would lend itself to a  
30 better understanding of the facts by the Committee or would

1 otherwise assist the Committee, the Chairman may allow cross-  
2 examination of such adverse witness to the extent and for a  
3 duration to be determined by the Chairman.

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