
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 15 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY VITALI, CARONE, WALKO, LEVDANSKY, JOSEPHS,
DERMODY, CORPORA, BOSCOLA, JAMES, SCRIMENTI, ROBERTS AND
CURRY, JANUARY 27, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 27, 1997

A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the definition of "press gallery" and Rule 73.

2 RESOLVED, That the definition of "press gallery" and Rule 73
3 be amended to read:

4 (1996-1997)

5 RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

6 Definitions:

7 "Day" shall mean any calendar day.

8 "Floor of the House" shall be that area within the Hall of
9 the House between the Speaker's rostrum and the brass rail
10 behind the Members' seats.

11 "Formal Action" shall mean any vote or motion of a member of
12 a standing committee, standing subcommittee, select committee or
13 rules committee of the House of Representatives to report or not
14 report, amend, consider or table a bill or resolution and the
15 discussion and debate thereof.

16 "Hall of the House" shall be the floor space within its four
17 walls and does not include the adjoining conference rooms, the

1 lobbies or the upper gallery of the House.

2 "Legislative Day" shall mean any day that the House shall be
3 in session.

4 "Press Gallery" shall be [within that area known as the Hall
5 of the House as designated by the Speaker] as designated in Rule
6 73.

7 "Roll Call Vote" shall be a vote taken and displayed by and
8 on the electric roll call board or in the event of a malfunction
9 of the electric roll call board, by such method as shall be
10 determined by the Speaker.

11 RULE 73

12 Correspondents

13 Admission to and administration of the Press Galleries of the
14 Senate and House of Representatives shall be vested in a
15 Committee on Correspondents consisting of the President pro
16 tempore of the Senate, or his designee; the Speaker of the House
17 of Representatives, or his designee; the Supervisor of the
18 Capitol Newsroom; the President of the Pennsylvania Legislative
19 Correspondents' Association, or his designee and the Executive
20 Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, or his
21 designee.

22 Persons desiring admission to the press sections of the
23 Senate and House of Representatives shall make application to
24 the Chairman of the Committee on Correspondents. Such
25 application shall state the newspaper, press association or
26 licensed radio or television station, its location, times of
27 publication or hours of broadcasting, and be signed by the
28 applicant.

29 The Committee on Correspondents shall verify the statements
30 made in such application, and, if the application is approved by

1 the committee, shall issue a correspondent's card signed by the
2 members of the committee.

3 There shall be a press gallery which shall be located in the
4 southeast corner of the Hall of the House.

5 The gallery assigned to newspaper correspondents or
6 recognized press association correspondents or representatives
7 of licensed radio and television stations, systems or
8 newsgathering agencies shall be for their exclusive use and
9 persons not holding correspondents cards shall not be entitled
10 to admission thereto. Employees of the General Assembly,
11 representatives and employees of state departments, boards,
12 commissions and agencies, visitors and members of the families
13 of correspondents entitled to admission to the press gallery
14 shall, at no time, be permitted to occupy the seats or be
15 entitled to the privileges of the press gallery.

16 Accredited representatives of newspapers, wire, newsreel
17 services and licensed radio or television stations, systems or
18 newsgathering agencies, may be authorized by the Speaker of the
19 House to take photographs, make audio or video recordings or
20 tapes, and to broadcast or televise in the House of
21 Representatives. Applications to take photographs, make audio or
22 video recordings or tapes, or to broadcast or televise at public
23 hearings of committees shall be approved by the committee
24 chairman or co-chairmen conducting such hearing. However, the
25 committee chairman conducting the hearing may make such orders
26 to such representatives as may be necessary to preserve order
27 and decorum.

28 No photographs shall be taken nor any recordings or tapes
29 made, nor any broadcasting or televising done in the House of
30 Representatives during sessions, being at ease or recessed,

1 without prior notice to the Representatives. When possible, such
2 notice shall be given at the beginning of the session, at ease
3 or recess, during which the photographs, recordings or taping,
4 broadcasting or televising are scheduled to be taken or made.

5 No more than one representative of each newspaper, press
6 association or licensed radio or television station, system or
7 newsgathering agency shall be admitted to the press gallery at
8 one time. Members of the Pennsylvania Legislative
9 Correspondents' Association and representatives of licensed
10 radio and television stations, systems or newsgathering
11 agencies, assigned to the House of Representatives on a daily
12 basis shall have permanent assigned seating in the press gallery
13 with identification plates. Visiting representatives of daily
14 newspapers, press associations, Sunday newspapers as well as
15 radio and television stations, systems or newsgathering agencies
16 shall coordinate seating accommodations with the supervisor of
17 the Capitol Newsroom.

18 Persons assigned to the press gallery on a permanent or
19 temporary basis, shall at all times, refrain from loud talking
20 or causing any disturbance which tends to interrupt the
21 proceedings of the House of Representatives.

22 Persons assigned to the press gallery on a permanent or
23 temporary basis shall not walk onto the floor of the House of
24 Representatives nor approach the rostrum or the clerks' desks
25 during session or while being at ease.

26 Persons assigned to the press gallery on a permanent or
27 temporary basis wishing to confer with a Representative shall
28 disclose this fact by having a message delivered by a page to
29 the Representative. Such conversation shall be conducted off the
30 floor of the House of Representatives.

1 Representatives of the Pennsylvania Public Broadcasting
2 System may, subject to regulations of the Speaker, televise or
3 make video tapes of proceedings of sessions of the House of
4 Representatives and meetings of all committees of the House of
5 Representatives.