
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 563 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VAZQUEZ, CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, O'BRIEN, DONATUCCI,
PASHINSKI, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, BIZZARRO, DRISCOLL,
J. HARRIS, D. COSTA, RYAN, SCHWEYER, BULLOCK, ROZZI, HILL-
EVANS, KINSEY, DAVIDSON, CONKLIN, W. KELLER, MURT, WATSON AND
DALEY, OCTOBER 16, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, OCTOBER 16, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to
2 establish a joint task force for the purpose of providing
3 emergency support and resources to assist Puerto Rico, the
4 United States Virgin Islands and their residents recover from
5 the damage and destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and
6 Maria.

7 WHEREAS, Hurricane Irma, a Category 5 storm with wind speeds
8 of 185 miles per hour, struck the United States Virgin Islands
9 on September 6, 2017, and left widespread destruction in its
10 wake; and

11 WHEREAS, In recent years, the United States Virgin Islands
12 have suffered from a cycle of financial mismanagement, leaving
13 the islands and their residents in an inadequate and unprepared
14 state to deal with the damaging effects of Hurricane Irma and,
15 two weeks later, Hurricane Maria; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to the damage created by Hurricane Irma,
17 a second storm, Hurricane Maria, further impacted recovery
18 efforts in the United States Virgin Islands through widespread

1 flooding and brought a new wave of destruction upon making
2 landfall in Puerto Rico during the early hours of the morning of
3 September 20, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, During Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico sustained
5 damaging rain and winds in excess of 155 miles per hour, causing
6 widespread and extensive damage; and

7 WHEREAS, Similarly to the United States Virgin Islands,
8 Puerto Rico has in recent years been burdened by a burgeoning
9 debt crisis, which has indefinitely delayed necessary upgrades
10 and improvements to infrastructure and utility services; and

11 WHEREAS, Sadly, residents of Puerto Rico and the United
12 States Virgin Islands are now living without electricity and
13 have extremely limited cell phone service, emergency and medical
14 services and access to clean water and food supplies; and

15 WHEREAS, Residents of Puerto Rico and the United States
16 Virgin Islands are now faced with great obstacles in their
17 attempt to rebuild their communities and lives and would benefit
18 significantly through the enhanced support and leadership of a
19 joint task force headed by the United States Department of
20 Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency; therefore
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
23 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress
24 of the United States to establish a joint task force for the
25 purpose of providing emergency support and resources to assist
26 Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands and their
27 residents recover from the damage and destruction caused by
28 Hurricanes Irma and Maria; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
30 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each

1 member of the Pennsylvania delegation to Congress.