

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1027 Session of  
2018

---

INTRODUCED BY METCALFE, GREINER, MOUL, NEILSON, FEE, MCGINNIS,  
DOWLING, MILLARD, BENNINGHOFF, B. MILLER, KEEFER, WARD,  
WHEELAND, RYAN, ELLIS, KLUNK, WARNER, STAATS, IRVIN, SAYLOR,  
GROVE, DUSH, ZIMMERMAN AND RAPP, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President and Congress of the United States to  
2 continue their commendable efforts to reduce Federal  
3 regulatory burdens.

4 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States requires a  
5 proper separation of powers between the three branches of  
6 government, with lawmaking that is accountable to the people;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Rulemakings by Federal agencies have overtaken  
9 Congressional action as the primary vehicle for setting national  
10 policy affecting State and local governments, business and  
11 families; and

12 WHEREAS, At the end of 2016, the Federal Register, the  
13 official depository of record of final and proposed rulemakings,  
14 totaled 95,894 pages, nearly 20% more pages than at the end of  
15 2015; and

16 WHEREAS, The cumulative number of Federal regulatory  
17 rulemakings with estimated costs greater than \$1 billion

1 increased dramatically over the past 10 years; and

2 WHEREAS, Research conducted by the Mercatus Center at George  
3 Mason University found that economic growth in the United States  
4 has, on average, been slowed by 0.8% per year since 1980, owing  
5 to the cumulative effects of Federal regulation; and

6 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Pennsylvania establishes the  
7 General Assembly as the lawmaking branch of government of the  
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, Research conducted by the Mercatus Center indicates  
10 that Pennsylvanians are subject to more than 153,000 regulatory  
11 restrictions; and

12 WHEREAS, In this Commonwealth, residents and businesses have  
13 identified Federal and State regulatory burdens as a hindrance  
14 to business development and the exercise of personal freedoms;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Businesses have incorporated part of the cost of  
17 compliance with Federal and State regulations into the price of  
18 their products and services, thereby raising costs for families  
19 and consumers; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania House of Representatives State  
21 Government Committee held hearings in 2017 to explore  
22 Pennsylvania's regulatory environment in the context of burdens,  
23 abuses, legislative oversight and potential solutions; and

24 WHEREAS, The State Government Committee found that regulatory  
25 restrictions create a hurdle that businesses of all shapes and  
26 sizes must jump over in order to create jobs in Pennsylvania;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The State Government Committee also found that the  
29 Regulatory Review Act does not currently give the General  
30 Assembly the authority to stop the promulgation of a regulation

1 without the Governor's approval; and

2 WHEREAS, The hearings also revealed that the inconsistent  
3 interpretation of regulations across the regions of this  
4 Commonwealth is harmful to industries operating in this  
5 Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The State Government Committee is recommending  
7 legislative reforms and advocating for best practices that  
8 committees can use to enhance their oversight role in regard to  
9 regulations; and

10 WHEREAS, The recommended reforms are aimed at improving the  
11 regulatory culture to ensure that the application of existing  
12 laws and regulations is collaborative and not punitive, to  
13 systematically review existing regulations and to stop faulty  
14 regulations before implementation; and

15 WHEREAS, Advocates of reform believe that a collaborative  
16 approach to regulatory implementation and enforcement would best  
17 ensure compliance and protection of public health and safety,  
18 while removing barriers to job creation; and

19 WHEREAS, There is support among members of the House of  
20 Representatives for regulatory reforms at the Federal and State  
21 levels; and

22 WHEREAS, The Federal Administrative Procedure Act, the  
23 governing legislation guiding the Federal rulemaking process,  
24 has not been updated in 70 years; and

25 WHEREAS, The President of the United States has made a strong  
26 commitment to regulatory reform by signing an executive order  
27 requiring that two regulations be cut for each new regulation  
28 proposed; and

29 WHEREAS, The President and Congress of the United States have  
30 also utilized the Congressional Review Act to eliminate more

1 than 12 burdensome Federal regulations; and

2 WHEREAS, Congress has demonstrated an interest in improving  
3 its regulatory oversight tools and processes in recent months  
4 and has considered a number of regulatory reform initiatives;  
5 therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
7 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and Congress of  
8 the United States to continue their commendable efforts to  
9 reduce regulatory burdens and thereby spur job creation and  
10 economic growth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recommend that Congress reaffirm  
13 its role as the primary policymaking branch of the Federal  
14 Government; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
16 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support efforts to restore  
17 transparency and accountability to the Federal rulemaking  
18 process; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
20 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
21 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.