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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 25

Session of  
1977

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INTRODUCED BY FISCHER, JANUARY 19, 1977

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 19, 1977

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 19, 1974 (P.L.486 No.175), entitled "An  
2 act 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 (P.L.486 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  
19 recess of the meeting of the agency, as the case may be; and

minutes shall be taken by the secretary or a certified public stenographer as shall be determined by the agency. The length of the recess for the purpose of petition and discussion shall be fixed by the agency and may be extended should a majority of the agency deem it necessary or appropriate. In addition, the recess for the purpose of petition and discussion may be adjourned, for the purpose of extended discussion, to a time and place, respectively, within the political subdivision that is, in the judgment of the agency, appropriate to the purpose. It is further provided that upon conclusion or adjournment of the recess, the agency shall reconvene for the purpose of the official business of the agency and that said petitioners or discussants shall in no way further participate in the official discussions or deliberations of the agency. The presiding officer of the agency shall enforce this provision and is herewith empowered to have any person or persons in violation removed from the meeting so that the official business of the agency may proceed with order and decorum.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.