A RESOLUTION

Appointing a special committee to, in regard to the COVID-19 public health emergency, monitor and track the response of the Commonwealth, identify issues, develop a recovery plan and submit a report.

WHEREAS, A novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, entered the United States in late January 2020 and has spread throughout the states, including this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, On March 6, 2020, the Governor declared a disaster emergency, citing a threat of imminent disaster that is of such a magnitude and severity as to necessitate extraordinary measures to protect the health, safety and life of this Commonwealth's citizens; and

WHEREAS, The impact of COVID-19, including all the necessary measures taken to mitigate the spread of the disease, has severely disrupted the Commonwealth and its subdivisions and is producing both short-term and long-term negative economic as well as personal consequences; and

WHEREAS, In order to effectively manage the current disaster, all branches of the Commonwealth's government must work
cooperatively to identify immediate and urgent issues, provide a structure to catalog the Commonwealth's response to the disaster emergency and create a forum to receive testimony, information and recommendations from individuals, businesses and the health care industry; and

WHEREAS, In addition to managing the existing public health challenges of COVID-19, the Commonwealth will need a recovery plan once the emergency subsides to address the innumerable issues resulting from the disaster emergency, including the impact to the economy; and

WHEREAS, The magnitude of the disaster necessitates legislative oversight and participation, which may be effectuated through the establishment of a special committee; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint a special committee to do all of the following:

(1) Monitor and track the response by the Commonwealth to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including all actions taken under the authority of the declaration of disaster emergency relating to the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19.

(2) Identify issues of immediate public importance relating to the COVID-19 public health emergency that require executive, legislative or judicial action and make recommendations to the proper branch in a timely fashion. The committee shall report on such issues to the House of Representatives not less than once per week.

(3) Develop and submit a recovery plan to the executive branch, legislative branch and judicial branch of the Commonwealth's government no later than October 15, 2020.
recovery plan shall include a documented, structured approach that describes how the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions can expeditiously resume mission-critical functions, including the restoration of housing, transportation, education and other public services and economic activity to levels equal to or better than their predisaster states through a series of short-term, intermediate and long-term strategies and actions. The recovery plan may be based in part or in whole on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's resources for recovery planning and managing recovery.

(4) Make a final report no later than November 25, 2020, documenting all of the following:

(i) Actions taken by executive agencies under the declaration of disaster emergency relating to the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19.

(ii) Legislative enactments made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(iii) Judicial orders made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(iv) A summary of actions undertaken by local governments in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint four members and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives appoint three members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint the chair and secretary of the committee; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the committee may hold hearings, take testimony and make its investigations at the places the committee deems necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee may issue subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chair commanding any person to appear before the committee and to answer questions touching matters properly being inquired into by the committee and to produce books, papers, records and documents as the committee deems necessary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That subpoenas may be served upon any person and have the same effect as subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth and that a person that willfully neglects or refuses to testify before the committee or to produce books, papers, records or documents be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That each member of the committee shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before the committee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee report to the House of Representatives on its activities, findings and recommendations by November 25, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the expenses incurred by the committee in carrying out its responsibilities, including per diem and travel expenses incurred by members and regular staff, stenographic charges and other incidental expenses be paid from appropriate accounts under the control of the Chief Clerk and be in addition to any other amount authorized for expenses for contractors, consultants and staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, by November 25, 2020, the chair cause a
record of all expenses incurred by the committee or its members which are payable at Commonwealth expense to be filed with the Chief Clerk.