

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 261

Session of
1976

INTRODUCED BY ZORD AND McCUE, MAY 24, 1976

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 25, 1976

In the House of Representatives, May 24, 1976

1 WHEREAS, The people of Pennsylvania adopted a series of major
2 amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth in 1968; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief among the Constitutional amendments adopted
4 was a new Article V, establishing a unified judicial system; and

5 WHEREAS, The purpose and intent motivating the adoption of a
6 unified judicial system in Pennsylvania was the need and desire
7 to improve the effectiveness of the administration of justice
8 within this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, This unified judicial system has now been in effect
10 for about five years; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House direct the Chairman
12 of the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Chairman of the
13 House Committee on Law and Justice to appoint four members from
14 each of these committees, two from the majority party and two
15 from the minority party, to serve on a select committee to
16 examine the operation of Article V of the Constitution; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Speaker himself appoint the chairman of

1 the select committee; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the select committee shall investigate the
3 operation of Article V of the Pennsylvania Constitution to
4 determine the effectiveness of the unified judicial system as
5 currently established and to make recommendations for
6 legislative action to improve that system; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the select committee may hold hearings, take
8 testimony, and make its investigation at such places as it deems
9 necessary within this Commonwealth. It may issue subpoenas under
10 the hand and seal of its chairman commanding any person to
11 appear before it and to answer questions touching matters
12 properly being inquired into by the select committee and to
13 produce such books, papers, records and documents as it deems
14 necessary. Such subpoenas may be served upon any person and
15 shall have the force and effect of subpoenas issued out of the
16 courts of this Commonwealth. Any person who wilfully neglects or
17 refuses to testify before the select committee or to produce any
18 books, papers, records or documents, shall be subject to the
19 penalties provided by the laws of the Commonwealth in such case.
20 Each member of the select committee shall have power to
21 administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before
22 the committee; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That within thirty calendar days after the select
24 committee has made its report, the chairman thereof shall cause
25 a record of all expenses incurred by it, or the members thereof,
26 which are payable at Commonwealth expense, to be filed with the
27 Speaker of the House and the Speaker shall cause the same to be
28 entered in the journal thereof. No expenses incurred by the
29 select committee or any member thereof shall be reimbursable by
30 the Chief Clerk unless such expense shall first have been

1 included as an expense item in the record heretofore required;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That said select committee shall report its

4 findings and recommendations to this House as soon as possible.