

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL****No. 304**Session of  
1977

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INTRODUCED BY MESSRS. PETRARCA, STEWART, A. K. HUTCHINSON,  
LAUDADIO AND LIVENGOOD, FEBRUARY 9, 1977

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 23, 1977

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## A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an emergency Constitutional amendment to the  
2 Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granting the  
3 General Assembly the power to enact special laws to aid  
4 certain individuals, corporations, associations, institutions  
5 or nonpublic schools adversely affected by conditions caused  
6 by certain storms, floods, ~~or~~ tornados OR OTHER FUTURE MAJOR ←  
7 DISASTERS.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby resolves as follows:

10 Section 1. Many Pennsylvanians have suffered greatly from  
11 the ravages of great storms or floods in the last few years. The  
12 great storms, floods or tornados of 1974, 1975 and 1976 are  
13 additional major disasters causing loss of life and great damage  
14 and destruction to property of individuals, industrial and  
15 commercial establishments and public facilities. AND NO DOUBT ←  
16 THERE WILL BE MANY MORE MAJOR DISASTERS OCCURRING IN FUTURE  
17 YEARS.

18 It is imperative that the victims of these PAST, PRESENT AND ←  
19 FUTURE disasters immediately receive the fullest possible aid  
20 from both the public and private sectors in order to clean up

1 and rebuild the affected areas of the Commonwealth and that  
2 persons in the Commonwealth be eligible for the maximum  
3 available aid from the government of the United States.

4 The General Assembly desires to alleviate such storm or  
5 economic deprivation caused by the floods ~~and storms but is~~ , <—  
6 STORMS OR OTHER FUTURE DISASTERS limited in its efforts by rigid  
7 restrictions in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
8 Pennsylvania. The safety and welfare of the Commonwealth  
9 requires prompt amendment to the Constitution of the  
10 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

11 The following amendment to the Constitution of the  
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the  
13 emergency provisions contained in subsections (a) and (b) of  
14 section 1 of Article XI thereof:

15 That section 17 of Article VIII ~~of the Constitution of the~~ <—  
16 ~~Commonwealth of Pennsylvania~~ be amended to read:

17 § 17. Special emergency legislation.

18 (a) Notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution to  
19 the contrary, the General Assembly shall have the authority to  
20 enact laws providing for tax rebates, credits, exemptions,  
21 grants-in-aid, State supplementations, or otherwise provide  
22 special provisions for individuals, corporations, associations  
23 or nonprofit institutions, including nonpublic schools (whether  
24 sectarian or nonsectarian) in order to alleviate the danger,  
25 damage, suffering or hardship faced by such individuals,  
26 corporations, associations, institutions or nonpublic schools as  
27 a result of Great Storms, [or] Floods or Tornadoes of September  
28 1971, of June, 1972, [or] of 1974, [or] of 1975, or of July 1976  
29 OR AS A RESULT OF MAJOR DISASTERS OCCURRING ON OR AFTER THE DATE <—  
30 THIS AMENDMENT IS APPROVED BY THE ELECTORATE.



1 State at the municipal election to be held on November 2, 1977,  
2 after the advertising requirements of subsection (a) of section  
3 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
4 Pennsylvania have been satisfied.