

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 93

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY REED, CIMINI, GRIECO, GIAMMARCO, ZITTERMAN,
BORSKI AND JONES, APRIL 26, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 27, 1977

In the House of Representatives, April 26, 1977

1 It is alleged that several cults operate fraudulently in
2 Pennsylvania and prey on our citizenry.

3 They claim to be organized for religious purposes, enjoy a
4 tax-free status, and use improper and possible unlawful means to
5 recruit and hold members.

6 It is reported that they violate individual rights and
7 freedoms and that they place people in involuntary servitude.

8 The cults force young adults to adopt a life of fund raising
9 under the guise of religious and charitable activities;
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives
12 appoint a special committee existing of seven members, four from
13 the majority and three from the minority, to study, investigate,
14 and report to the House on the activities of the pseudo-
15 religious cults in Pennsylvania, their effect on the citizenry
16 of Pennsylvania and the effect of the tax and fund raising
17 activities of the cults of the Commonwealth; and be it further

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

16 RESOLVED, That within 30 calendar days after the committee
17 has made its report, the chairman of the committee shall cause a
18 record of all expenses incurred by the committee, or the members
19 thereof, which are payable at Commonwealth expense, to be filed
20 with the Speaker of the House and the Speaker shall cause the
21 same to be entered into the journal thereof. No expenses
22 incurred by the committee or any member thereof shall be
23 reimbursable by the Chief Clerk unless such expense shall first
24 have been included as an expense item in the record heretofore
25 required; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings to the House
27 of Representatives as soon as possible.