

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 19

Session of
1995

INTRODUCED BY ROBINSON, JANUARY 25, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 25, 1995

A RESOLUTION

1 Amending House Rule 44.

2 RESOLVED, That House Rule 44 be amended to read:

3 RULE 44

4 Organization of Standing Committees
5 and Subcommittees

6 The membership of each standing committee shall first meet
7 upon the call of its chairman and perfect its organization.
8 Following the adoption of a resolution naming members to
9 standing committees, the committees shall meet to reorganize
10 over the course of one week in such fashion that no more than
11 one committee is meeting at the same time. The Committee on
12 Committees may prescribe a meeting schedule for reorganization.
13 A majority of the members to which each standing committee is
14 entitled shall constitute a quorum for it to proceed to
15 business. Each standing committee shall have the power to
16 promulgate rules not inconsistent with these rules which may be
17 necessary for the orderly conduct of its business.

1 Where a standing committee has standing subcommittees as
2 prescribed by Rule 43, the membership on such standing
3 subcommittees shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees
4 after consultation with each chairman of a standing committee of
5 which the standing subcommittee is a part. Each standing
6 subcommittee shall consist of the chairman of its parent
7 standing committee, as an ex-officio member, the chairman of the
8 standing subcommittee, and five other members from the parent
9 standing committee to be appointed by the Committee on
10 Committees, three from among the majority party after
11 consultation with the Majority Leader and two from among the
12 minority party after consultation with the Minority Leader.
13 Where it is deemed advisable that the membership of any standing
14 subcommittee be of greater number than that prescribed herein,
15 the Committee on Committees may appoint additional members of
16 the standing committee from the majority or minority party to
17 serve on such standing subcommittee. The number of additional
18 members selected should be such as to maintain, as far as is
19 practicable, a ratio in majority and minority party membership
20 which affords a fair and reasonable representation to the
21 minority party on the standing subcommittee.

22 The chairman and the minority chairman of each standing
23 committee shall be ex-officio members of each standing
24 subcommittee which is part of the parent standing committee,
25 with the right to attend standing subcommittee meetings and vote
26 on any matter before such standing subcommittee.

27 A majority of the members of each standing subcommittee shall
28 constitute a quorum for the proper conduct of its business. Each
29 standing subcommittee may promulgate such rules necessary for
30 the conduct of its business which are not inconsistent with the

1 rules of its parent standing committee or the Rules of the
2 House.

3 When the chairman of a standing committee has referred a
4 bill, resolution or other matter to a standing subcommittee, the
5 power and control over such bill, resolution or other matter
6 shall then reside in such subcommittee for a reasonable period
7 of time thereafter in order that such subcommittee may consider
8 the bill, resolution or other matter and return the same to its
9 standing committee with its recommendations as to the action
10 which ought to be taken on such bill, resolution or other
11 matter.

12 Each standing subcommittee, within a reasonable time after it
13 has received a bill, resolution or other matter, shall meet as a
14 committee for the purpose of considering the same and returning
15 the bill, resolution or other matter back to its parent standing
16 committee with a subcommittee report as to what action it
17 recommends. The report of the subcommittee on a bill, resolution
18 or other matter being returned to the standing committee shall
19 contain one of the following recommendations:

20 (1) that the bill, resolution or other matter in its present
21 form be reported to the House,

22 (2) that the bill, resolution, or other matter not be
23 reported to the House,

24 (3) that the bill, resolution or other matter be reported to
25 the House, with recommendations for amendments,

26 (4) that the bill, resolution or other matter is returned
27 without recommendations.

28 When a standing committee receives reports from its
29 subcommittees, it shall consider the same and by majority vote
30 of the members of the standing committee either approve or

1 disapprove such report. If disapproved, the standing committee
2 may then determine by a majority vote of its members what
3 further action, if any, should be taken on such bill, resolution
4 or other matter.

5 Where no action has been taken by a standing subcommittee on
6 a bill, resolution or other matter referred to it, and the
7 chairman of the standing committee considers that such
8 subcommittee has had reasonable time to consider the bill,
9 resolution or other matter and return the same to its parent
10 standing committee, the subcommittee chairman shall then
11 forthwith surrender and forward the same, together with all
12 documents or papers pertaining thereto, to the standing
13 committee.

14 In the event that a chairman of a standing committee is
15 absent, the following rules shall apply:

16 (1) If such standing committee has no subcommittee
17 prescribed by Rule 44, the vice-chairman of the standing
18 committee shall act as chairman of the committee meetings.

19 (2) If such standing committee has only one subcommittee,
20 the subcommittee chairman shall act as chairman of the standing
21 committee.

22 (3) If the standing committee has more than one
23 subcommittee, the subcommittee chairman with the longest
24 consecutive legislative service shall act as chairman of the
25 standing committee, except where the subcommittee chairmen have
26 equal legislative service, in which case the Speaker of the
27 House shall designate one of the subcommittee chairmen to act as
28 chairman of the standing committee.

29 In case of absence of a subcommittee chairman, the chairman
30 of the appropriate standing committee shall designate one member

- 1 from either the standing committee or subcommittee to act as
- 2 chairman of the subcommittee.