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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 84

Session of  
1997

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INTRODUCED BY PETRONE, HENNESSEY, TIGUE, McCALL, LLOYD, STURLA,  
BOSCOLA, SCRIMENTI, MELIO, ROONEY, WOGAN, STETLER, DEMPSEY,  
READSHAW, MUNDY, ROBERTS, KENNEY, JAMES, M. N. WRIGHT,  
J. TAYLOR, EGOLF, ROBINSON, LYNCH, PISTELLA, WALKO, PRESTON  
AND BELFANTI, MARCH 12, 1997

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 12, 1997

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Urban Affairs Committee to inquire into the  
2 practices of municipal authorities.

3 WHEREAS, The Municipality Authorities Act of 1945 permits any  
4 county, city, borough, incorporated town, township or school  
5 district of the Commonwealth, acting singly or jointly with one  
6 or more other local governments, to organize an authority; and

7 WHEREAS, Today there exists over 2,000 active municipal  
8 authorities in Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, Municipal authorities in Pennsylvania were devised  
10 as a vehicle for accomplishing public purposes not possible or  
11 practical through direct action of counties, municipalities and  
12 school districts, as well as to insulate public services from  
13 political abuses; and

14 WHEREAS, In recent years there have been perceived problems  
15 with actual or alleged abuses by municipal authorities in this  
16 Commonwealth; and

1       WHEREAS, There have also been concerns raised as to the  
2   accountability of a municipal authority, its board members and  
3   its employees to the municipality that created the authority and  
4   the general public which ultimately pays for the authority's  
5   expenditures; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Urban  
7   Affairs Committee to conduct an inquiry into the practices of  
8   municipal authorities in Pennsylvania as well as to conduct a  
9   thorough review of the Municipality Authorities Act and to  
10   propose any changes to that act it deems appropriate; and be it  
11   further

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

28      RESOLVED, That the committee make a report of its findings  
29   and recommendations to the full House of Representatives no  
30   later than September 30, 1998.