

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 581      Session of  
2008

---

INTRODUCED BY RAMALEY, READSHAW, GIBBONS, CREIGHTON, JAMES,  
BIANCUCCI, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, FRANKEL, GERGELY,  
GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HORNAMAN, KULA, MANN, McILHATTAN,  
M. O'BRIEN, PETRONE, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER,  
SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SWANGER, THOMAS, WALKO, WANSACZ AND  
YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 5, 2008

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
FEBRUARY 5, 2008

---

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Democratic National Committee and the Republican  
2 National Committee to assist every state, with the exception  
3 of Iowa and New Hampshire, in coordinating and implementing a  
4 rotating regional presidential primary system.

5 WHEREAS, The election of the President and the Vice President  
6 of the United States is among the most important civic events in  
7 which voters participate; and

8 WHEREAS, The process leading to the nomination of candidates  
9 for President and Vice President of the United States should be  
10 as open and participatory as possible; and

11 WHEREAS, An alarming number of states are rushing to move  
12 their 2008 presidential primary elections to an earlier date  
13 which, if successful, would result in the most front-loaded  
14 presidential nominating calendar in our nation's history; and

15 WHEREAS, The impact of this trend is that most Americans will  
16 not have input into choosing their party's presidential nominee

1 and those that do will have inadequate time to make an informed  
2 decision about their vote; and

3 WHEREAS, A coordinated, orderly and defined presidential  
4 primary electoral schedule would enhance voter participation,  
5 strengthen the political process and protect the rights of all  
6 states and their citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, To accomplish this goal, the Commonwealth of  
8 Pennsylvania should participate in a rotating regional  
9 presidential primary system that divides the country into four  
10 regions, holds a rotating schedule of primary elections in  
11 March, April, May and June, and gives each region an opportunity  
12 to vote first every four elections; and

13 WHEREAS, Given the historically important role smaller states  
14 have played in the presidential election process in terms of  
15 retail politics, New Hampshire and Iowa should be allowed to  
16 continue to conduct their primary or caucus prior to the  
17 commencement of the rotation schedule; and

18 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should assume a  
19 leadership role on this issue, just as it has done countless  
20 times throughout our nation's long history, and attempt to  
21 establish a presidential primary system that best protects the  
22 voice of each state in the process; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
24 Democratic National Committee and the Republican National  
25 Committee to assist every state, with the exception of Iowa and  
26 New Hampshire, in coordinating and implementing a rotating  
27 regional presidential primary system; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
29 the presiding officers of both the Democratic National Committee  
30 and the Republican National Committee.