

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 274 Session of  
2009

INTRODUCED BY BENNINGHOFF, HUTCHINSON, BOYD, CHRISTIANA, COX,  
CREIGHTON, CUTLER, FLECK, GABIG, GIBBONS, GRELL, GROVE,  
W. KELLER, METCALFE, MOUL, OBERLANDER, RAPP, ROAE, ROHRER,  
SCHRODER, STERN, TRUE AND VULAKOVICH, APRIL 28, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 28, 2009

## A RESOLUTION

1 Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to further  
2 provide for standing committees and subcommittees.

3 RESOLVED, That House Rule 43 be amended to read:

4 RULE 43

5 Standing Committees and Subcommittees

6 The Committee on Committees shall consist of the Speaker and  
7 15 members of the House, ten of whom shall be members of the  
8 majority party and five of whom shall be members of the minority  
9 party, whose duty shall be to recommend to the House the names  
10 of members who are to serve on the standing committees of the  
11 House. Except for the Speaker, the Majority and Minority  
12 Leaders, Whips, Caucus Chairs, Caucus Secretaries, Caucus  
13 Administrators, Policy Chairs and the chairs and minority chairs  
14 of standing committees, each member shall be entitled to serve  
15 on not less than two standing committees.

16 The Speaker shall appoint the chair and vice-chair of each  
17 standing committee when such standing committee has no standing

1 subcommittees as prescribed herein, except the Committee on  
2 Appropriations which shall also have a vice-chair appointed by  
3 the Speaker; when the standing committee has standing  
4 subcommittees, the Speaker shall appoint a subcommittee chair  
5 for each standing subcommittee. The Speaker shall appoint a  
6 secretary for each standing committee. The Minority Leader shall  
7 appoint the minority chair, minority vice-chair and minority  
8 secretary of each standing committee and the minority  
9 subcommittee chair for each standing subcommittee. A member of a  
10 standing committee may not serve as chair of the same standing  
11 committee during more than three consecutive sessions.

12 Except for members who decline chair status or minority chair  
13 status in writing or who are barred from serving as a chair or  
14 minority chair under this rule, the chair and minority chair of  
15 each standing committee except the Appropriations Committee  
16 shall be limited only to the members of the applicable caucus  
17 with the most seniority as members of their respective caucus.  
18 Whenever there are more caucus members with equal seniority than  
19 available chairs or minority chairs for that caucus, the  
20 selection of a chair or minority chair from among such caucus  
21 members shall be in the discretion of the appointing authority.  
22 The appointing authority may designate the standing committee to  
23 which the appointing authority shall appoint a member as chair  
24 or minority chair without regard to seniority. The Speaker and  
25 the Floor Leader, Whip, Caucus Chair, Caucus Secretary, Caucus  
26 Administrator and Policy Chair of the majority party and  
27 minority party shall not be eligible to serve as chair or  
28 minority chair of any standing committee and no member may serve  
29 as chair or minority chair of more than one standing committee.

30 Any chair or minority chair held by a member who fails to

1 meet the requirements of this rule shall become vacant by  
2 automatic operation of this rule. If the appointing authority  
3 fails to make an appointment of a chair or minority chair prior  
4 to the organizational meeting of a standing committee or fails  
5 to fill a vacancy within seven calendar days after it occurs,  
6 such position shall be deemed to remain vacant in violation of  
7 this rule. Whenever a chair or minority chair becomes vacant or  
8 remains vacant in violation of this rule, the member of the  
9 applicable caucus who meets the requirements of this rule shall  
10 automatically fill the vacancy and, if there are two or more  
11 such eligible caucus members for any such vacancy or vacancies,  
12 they shall be filled from among such eligible members through a  
13 lottery to be conducted under the supervision of the Chief Clerk  
14 after giving notice of the time and place thereof to all  
15 eligible members, to the Speaker, to the Majority Leader and to  
16 the Minority Leader.

17 Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the appointing authority  
18 from transferring a member from the chair or minority chair of a  
19 standing committee to the chair or minority chair of another  
20 standing committee.

21 Whenever the appointment of a chair or minority chair will  
22 cause the applicable caucus to exceed its permissible allocation  
23 of members on a standing committee, the appointing authority  
24 shall make a temporary transfer of an eligible committee member  
25 to the standing committee vacated by the member appointed as  
26 chair or minority chair until a regular committee appointment  
27 can be made in accordance with the rules of the House. If the  
28 Speaker or Minority Leader fails to make a temporary transfer  
29 within seven calendar days after such appointment, the committee  
30 member with the least seniority, who is eligible for transfer,

1 shall be automatically transferred to the committee vacated by  
2 the newly appointed chair or minority chair and, if more than  
3 one committee member is eligible for such transfer, the transfer  
4 shall be implemented through a lottery conducted under the  
5 supervision of the Chief Clerk.

6 The Speaker of the House, Floor Leader of the majority party  
7 and the Floor Leader of the minority party shall be ex-officio  
8 members of all standing committees, without the right to vote  
9 and they shall be excluded from any limitation as to the number  
10 of members on the committees or in counting a quorum.

11 Twenty-four standing committees of the House, each to consist  
12 of 26 members except the Committee on Appropriations, which  
13 shall consist of 35 members, are hereby created. In addition,  
14 there are hereby created 46 standing subcommittees.

15 All standing committees shall consist of 15 members of the  
16 majority party and 11 members of the minority party, except the  
17 Committee on Appropriations which shall consist of 21 members of  
18 the majority party and 14 members of the minority party. The  
19 quorum for each of the standing committees and subcommittees  
20 shall be no less than the majority of said committees. The  
21 following are the standing committees and subcommittees thereof:

- 22 (1) Aging and Older Adult Services
  - 23 (a) Subcommittee on Care and Services
  - 24 (b) Subcommittee on Programs and Benefits
- 25 (2) Agriculture and Rural Affairs
- 26 (3) Appropriations
  - 27 (a) Subcommittee on Health and Welfare
  - 28 (b) Subcommittee on Education
  - 29 (c) Subcommittee on Economic Impact and Infrastructure
  - 30 (d) Subcommittee on Fiscal Policy

1           (e) Subcommittee on Criminal Justice  
2       (4) Children and Youth  
3       (5) Commerce  
4           (a) Subcommittee on Financial Services and Banking  
5           (b) Subcommittee on Housing  
6           (c) Subcommittee on Economic Development  
7           (d) Subcommittee on Small Business  
8       (6) Consumer Affairs  
9           (a) Subcommittee on Public Utilities  
10          (b) Subcommittee on Telecommunications  
11       (7) Education  
12           (a) Subcommittee on Basic Education  
13           (b) Subcommittee on Higher Education  
14           (c) Subcommittee on Special Education  
15       (8) Environmental Resources and Energy  
16           (a) Subcommittee on Energy  
17           (b) Subcommittee on Mining  
18           (c) Subcommittee on Parks and Forests  
19       (9) Finance  
20       (10) Game and Fisheries  
21       (11) Gaming Oversight  
22       (12) Health and Human Services  
23           (a) Subcommittee on Health  
24           (b) Subcommittee on Human Services  
25           (c) Subcommittee on Drugs and Alcohol  
26           (d) Subcommittee on Mental Health  
27       (13) Insurance  
28       (14) Judiciary  
29           (a) Subcommittee on Crime and Corrections  
30           (b) Subcommittee on Courts

1           (c) Subcommittee on Family Law  
2       (15) Intergovernmental Affairs  
3           (a) Subcommittee on Information Technology  
4           (b) Subcommittee on Federal-State Relations  
5       (16) Labor Relations  
6       (17) Liquor Control  
7           (a) Subcommittee on Licensing  
8           (b) Subcommittee on Marketing  
9       (18) Local Government  
10          (a) Subcommittee on Boroughs  
11          (b) Subcommittee on Counties  
12          (c) Subcommittee on Townships  
13       (19) Professional Licensure  
14       (20) State Government  
15       (21) Tourism and Recreational Development  
16          (a) Subcommittee on Arts and Entertainment  
17          (b) Subcommittee on Recreation  
18          (c) Subcommittee on Travel Promotion  
19       (22) Transportation  
20          (a) Subcommittee on Highways  
21          (b) Subcommittee on Public Transportation  
22          (c) Subcommittee on Transportation Safety  
23          (d) Subcommittee on Aviation  
24          (e) Subcommittee on Railroads  
25       (23) Urban Affairs  
26          (a) Subcommittee on Cities, Counties - First Class  
27          (b) Subcommittee on Cities, Counties - Second Class  
28          (c) Subcommittee on Cities, Third Class  
29       (24) Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness  
30          (a) Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Facilities

1           (b)   Subcommittee on Security and Emergency Response  
2    Readiness