
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 878 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY DERMODY, HOHENSTEIN, DRISCOLL, SCHWEYER, SOLOMON, MARKOSEK, BIZZARRO, HANBIDGE, KINSEY, GALLOWAY, STURLA, DELLOSO, SCHLOSSBERG, HARRIS, ULLMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, HOWARD, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, BRADFORD, WEBSTER, DeLUCA, ROZZI, SANCHEZ, KORTZ, WARREN, WILLIAMS, GREEN, FRANKEL, CIRESI, MADDEN, GAINNEY, MERSKI, NEILSON, DONATUCCI, MALAGARI AND McCLINTON, MAY 19, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 19, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a Task Force on Emergency Remote Voting.

2 WHEREAS, In times of emergency, the continued operation of
3 the House of Representatives is essential to provide for the
4 welfare of the Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has
6 highlighted the need for the House of Representatives to adopt a
7 contingency plan for remote operation in times of emergency when
8 meeting in person is either impossible or unsafe; and

9 WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, the House of Representatives
10 unanimously adopted House Resolution 834, a temporary rule
11 providing for designated voting for the duration of the
12 declaration of disaster emergency issued by the Governor on
13 March 6, 2020; and

14 WHEREAS, House Resolution 834 provided that members could
15 designate the Majority or Minority Whip to cast their votes on

1 their behalf rather than being required to be physically present
2 in the House Chamber; and

3 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives designated voting
4 process became a model for the other states of the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, Despite House Resolution 834's laudable achievement
7 in providing for the continued operation of the House of
8 Representatives during the COVID-19 emergency, the model
9 requires the physical presence of members and staff in the House
10 of Representatives, a luxury that may be unavailable during
11 future emergencies; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a Task
13 Force on Emergency Remote Voting to research and recommend an
14 emergency remote voting contingency plan for the House of
15 Representatives to provide for continued operation of the House
16 in the case of an emergency that prevented members from being
17 physically present; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Emergency Remote Voting
19 consist of the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives
20 or his designee, the Minority Leader of the House of
21 Representatives or his designee, the Parliamentarian of the
22 House of Representatives, the Chief Clerk of the House of
23 Representatives, the Director of the Legislative Reference
24 Bureau and the Director of the Legislative Data Processing
25 Center; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of
27 Representatives shall serve as the chairperson of the Task
28 Force; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Emergency Remote Voting
30 submit its recommendations to the House of Representatives by

1 November 30, 2020; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Task Force on Emergency Remote Voting

3 expires upon the submission of its recommendations to the House

4 of Representatives.