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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 1544** Session of  
1975

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INTRODUCED BY M. E. MILLER, KNEPPER, FISCHER, HASKELL, HOPKINS,  
WILSON AND R. W. WILT, JUNE 25, 1975

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JUNE 30, 1975

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 19, 1974 (No.175), entitled "An act  
2 requiring public agencies to hold certain meetings and  
3 hearings open to the public and providing penalties,"  
4 authorizing tape recordings of public meetings by news media.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sections 4 and 6, act of July 19, 1974 (No.175),  
8 entitled "An act requiring public agencies to hold certain  
9 meetings and hearings open to the public and providing  
10 penalties," are amended to read:

11 Section 4. (a) The minutes of a public meeting of an agency  
12 shall be taken and promptly recorded and shall be a public  
13 record under and subject to the act of June 21, 1957 (P.L.390,  
14 No.212), entitled "An act requiring certain records of the  
15 Commonwealth and its political subdivisions and of certain  
16 authorities and other agencies performing essential governmental  
17 functions, to be open for examination and inspection by citizens  
18 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; authorizing such citizens  
19 under certain conditions to make extracts, copies, photographs

1 or photostats of such records; and providing for appeals to the  
2 courts of common pleas."

3 (b) News media representatives may tape record any agency  
4 meeting after announcing their intent to do so, so long as such  
5 taping is not disruptive of the meeting.

6 Section 6. Nothing in this act shall prohibit the agency  
7 from adopting by formal action such rules and regulations as  
8 necessary for the conduct of its meetings. Additionally, the  
9 members of the agency conducting the meeting may at the time of  
10 any disturbance which would render the ordinary conduct of the  
11 meeting unfeasible and when order cannot be restored, authorize  
12 the presiding officer, by majority vote, to enforce such rules  
13 and regulations to the extent necessary to restore order. Such  
14 rules and regulations shall not be made to violate the intent of  
15 this act. Rules and regulations governing use of tape recording  
16 devices by news media shall not prohibit such use as disruptive  
17 per se nor because of the personal objections of any of the  
18 general public attending.