

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 122

Session of  
1977

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INTRODUCED BY IRVIS, BUTERA, PARKER, MANDERINO AND GREENFIELD,  
JUNE 21, 1977

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JUNE 22, 1977

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In the House of Representatives, June 21, 1977

1 WHEREAS, The responsibilities of members of the House have  
2 increased in recent years, as have expenditures of Commonwealth  
3 funds to sustain these responsibilities; and

4 WHEREAS, The administration machinery, facilities, and other  
5 elements in the structure and practices of the House which  
6 support the discharge of these responsibilities have been  
7 expanded greatly; and

8 WHEREAS, The support structure, facilities, and  
9 administrative practices of the House have never been subjected  
10 to an overall independent examination; and

11 WHEREAS, The modernization and improvement of the cost-  
12 effectiveness of the administrative machinery, facilities,  
13 practices, and support-services of the House can be facilitated  
14 by an impartial, overall study conducted by a group independent  
15 of the House; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That there is hereby established a commission on  
17 the operation of the House which shall be composed of seven

1 members appointed from private life and two ex officio members  
2 who are presently officers or employees of the House and who  
3 shall participate without vote. All commissioners shall be  
4 appointed by the Speaker of the House upon the joint  
5 recommendation of the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of  
6 the House. Any vacancy in the commission shall be filled in the  
7 same manner as the original appointment. The commission shall  
8 elect a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members.  
9 Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum but two  
10 members may conduct hearings. Not more than two former members  
11 of the House may serve as members of the commission and no  
12 individual whose relevant experience is preponderantly in the  
13 Executive Branch of the Government shall be appointed as a  
14 member of the commission; and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That it shall be the function and duty of the  
16 commission to make a comprehensive and impartial study of the  
17 organization and operation of the Pennsylvania House of  
18 Representatives. Such study shall include, but not be limited  
19 to: (i) the functioning of members, officers, and employees of  
20 the House in the light of the responsibilities of the House in  
21 the areas of committee responsibility, lawmaking,  
22 representation, and oversight, (ii) the scheduling of business,  
23 (iii) office accommodations and facilities, (iv) information  
24 resources, and (v) internal management administrative support  
25 structures, including electronic and technical aids, foresight  
26 capacity and workload. The commission shall also study ways of  
27 improving House communication, cooperation, and coordination  
28 with the Senate and with the Executive and Judicial Branches of  
29 the Government, giving due consideration to the separation of  
30 powers provided by the Constitution. Members of the commission,

1 other than legislators, shall receive a per diem compensation of  
2 \$50 for the performance of their duties. The commission shall  
3 appoint, prescribe the duties and responsibilities of, and fix  
4 the compensation of a staff director, and such other employees  
5 as may be necessary to enable it to carry out its functions and  
6 duties. The commission is authorized to procure the temporary or  
7 intermittent services of individual consultants, or  
8 organizations thereof; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the commission is authorized to utilize the  
10 services, information, facilities, and personnel of the office  
11 of the Secretary of the House, the office of the Chief Clerk of  
12 the House, House Comptroller, Parliamentarian, Majority Caucus  
13 Whip, Minority Caucus Whip, Legislative Reference Bureau, Joint  
14 State Government Commission, and the Legislative Data Processing  
15 Center and Legislative Office of Research Liaison. Office space  
16 and office furniture, furnishings and equipment shall be  
17 provided to the commission in the same manner as other offices  
18 of the House; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the commission shall submit a final report to  
20 the Majority Leader and Minority Leader of the House as soon as  
21 possible after November 7, 1978, which shall set forth the  
22 results of the study made under this resolution, together with  
23 its findings and recommendations. The commission may submit such  
24 other reports to the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of  
25 the House as they may request or as the commission deems  
26 advisable. The Majority Leader and Minority Leader shall submit  
27 to the House all reports received by them. Fourteen days after  
28 the date of submission of its final report, the commission shall  
29 cease to exist; and be it further

30       RESOLVED, That the expenses of the commission, which shall

1 not exceed \$100,000, shall be paid from the incidental and  
2 legislative printing expense fund of the House upon vouchers  
3 signed by the chairman of the commission and approved by the  
4 Majority Leader or the Minority Leader of the House, except that  
5 vouchers shall not be required for the disbursement of salaries  
6 of employees paid at an annual rate.