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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 97

Session of  
1981

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INTRODUCED BY DORR, SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

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In the House of Representatives, September 22, 1981

1 Bills which do not violate a provision of the Constitution  
2 should be introduced in both Houses of the General Assembly as  
3 "joint bills" to expedite the passage of legislation and to save  
4 money for the taxpayers; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the Rules of the House  
6 of Representatives be amended by adding a rule to read:

7 RULE 28 (a)

8 Joint Bills

9 A joint bill is a bill which is introduced simultaneously in  
10 both bodies of the General Assembly. An original copy of a joint  
11 bill shall be introduced by at least one member of the House and  
12 at least one member of the Senate. A joint bill shall name only  
13 one member of the House and one member of the Senate as prime  
14 sponsors. The prime sponsors shall designate the bill as a joint  
15 bill. The bill shall carry a parenthetical reference to the  
16 House in which it is introduced until such time as it is passed  
17 by that body.

1 A joint bill shall be governed by all House Rules except as  
2 specifically provided in this rule. A conflict between this rule  
3 and other House Rules shall be resolved in favor of this rule.

4 A joint bill which passes the House shall be laid on the  
5 Speaker's desk where the bill shall lie until the joint bill is  
6 passed by the Senate.

7 The Speaker of the House shall refer the joint bill to a  
8 Conference Committee upon passage of the joint bill in the  
9 Senate in the manner provided by Rule 48.

10 The Conference Committee shall reconcile any differences  
11 between the versions of the joint bill passed by the two bodies  
12 and present their report initially to the body of the prime  
13 sponsor, in accordance with Rule 48. If the Conference Committee  
14 finds no differences within the bill, it shall report the same  
15 in like manner.

16 After being reported from Conference Committee, a joint bill:

17 (1) shall not be adopted unless considered on three  
18 different days;

19 (2) shall not be subject to the automatic tabling provision  
20 of Rule 22;

21 (3) shall not be amended; and

22 (4) shall not be debated except upon third consideration.

23 A joint bill shall be sent to the Governor after it has been  
24 reported from Conference Committee and subsequently passed by  
25 the General Assembly.

26 A separate system shall be established for the issuance of  
27 new printer's numbers for joint bills which they shall receive  
28 when they are reported from conference. The Speaker of the House  
29 shall arrange with the President pro tempore of the Senate for  
30 the establishment of the system for the numbering of joint bills

1 in order that the joint bill may bear the same bill number in  
2 the House and Senate.

3 The joint bill shall bear the names of the prime House  
4 sponsor and the prime Senate sponsor whose names shall be first  
5 listed by agreement between said prime sponsors. The joint bill  
6 shall bear the names of all other House and Senate sponsors in  
7 alphabetical order.

8 The prime sponsor shall be appointed to the Conference  
9 Committee by the Speaker of the House; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the concurrence of the Senate in this  
11 Resolution shall constitute an adoption of a Senate Rule to  
12 read:

13 RULE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

14 Joint Bills

15 A joint bill is a bill which is introduced simultaneously in  
16 both bodies of the General Assembly. An original copy of a joint  
17 bill shall be introduced by at least one member of the Senate  
18 and at least one member of the House. A joint bill shall name  
19 only one member of the Senate and one member of the House as  
20 prime sponsors. The prime sponsors shall designate the bill as a  
21 joint bill. The bill shall carry a parenthetical reference to  
22 the House in which it is introduced until such time as it is  
23 passed by that body.

24 A joint bill shall be governed by all Senate Rules except as  
25 specifically provided in this rule. A conflict between this rule  
26 and other Senate Rules shall be resolved in favor of this rule.

27 A joint bill which passes the Senate shall be laid on the  
28 desk of the President pro tempore where it shall lie until the  
29 joint bill is passed by the House of Representatives.

30 The President pro tempore shall refer the joint bill to a

1 Conference Committee upon passage of the joint bill in the House  
2 of Representatives.

3 The Conference Committee shall reconcile any differences  
4 between the versions of the joint bill passed by the two bodies  
5 and present their report initially to the body of the prime  
6 sponsor. If the Conference Committee finds no differences within  
7 the bill, it shall report the same in like manner.

8 After being reported from Conference Committee, a joint bill:

9 (1) shall not be adopted unless considered on three  
10 different days;

11 (2) shall not be subject to an automatic tabling provision;

12 (3) shall not be amended; and

13 (4) shall not be debated except upon third consideration.

14 A joint bill shall be sent to the Governor after it has been  
15 reported from Conference Committee and subsequently passed by  
16 the General Assembly.

17 A separate system shall be established for the issuance of  
18 new printer's numbers for joint bills which they shall receive  
19 when they are reported from conference. The President pro  
20 tempore shall arrange with the Speaker of the House for the  
21 establishment of the system for the numbering of joint bills in  
22 order that the joint bill may bear the same bill number in the  
23 Senate and House.

24 The joint bill shall bear the names of the prime Senate  
25 sponsor and the prime House sponsor whose names shall be first  
26 listed by agreement between said prime sponsors. The joint bill  
27 shall bear the names of all other Senate and House sponsors in  
28 alphabetical order.

29 The prime sponsor shall be appointed to the Conference  
30 Committee by the President pro tempore.