

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 577 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY GRELL, ADOLPH, BEAR, BENNINGHOFF, BEYER, BOBACK, BROOKS, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DAY, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, ELLIS, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GABIG, GABLER, GEIST, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GROVE, HARHART, HARRIS, HELM, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, M. KELLER, KILLION, KORTZ, KRIEGER, MAHER, MARSHALL, MARSICO, MATZIE, MCILVAINE SMITH, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MUNDY, MUSTIO, D. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PETRI, PICKETT, PYLE, QUIGLEY, QUINN, REESE, REICHLEY, ROAE, ROCK, ROHRER, SHAPIRO, SIPTROTH, STEVENSON, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TRUE, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, JANUARY 6, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 6, 2010

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a bipartisan Commission on Budgetary Reform to  
2 study the budget process and make recommendations for reforms  
3 needed to improve the process.

4 WHEREAS, The 2009-2010 budget approval process extended 101  
5 days beyond the June 30 constitutional (section 24 of Article  
6 III) and statutory (section 617 of the act of April 9, 1929  
7 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929),  
8 deadline, leaving counties, municipalities, school districts and  
9 social service agencies and other Commonwealth vendors without  
10 State funds; and

11 WHEREAS, These same local governments and social service  
12 agencies struggled to maintain services as the Governor and  
13 legislative leaders negotiated and utilized legislative tactics  
14 to further delay resolution of the budget; and

1 WHEREAS, Failure to enact a State budget in advance of July 1  
2 places State employees in jeopardy for possible furlough, layoff  
3 or not being paid timely for work performed; and

4 WHEREAS, The continuing budget stalemate eroded the faith of  
5 our citizens in the ability of State government to function in  
6 the best interests of the public; and

7 WHEREAS, While much has been done on reform of the general  
8 operating rules of the Senate and the House of Representatives,  
9 there should be an organized bipartisan effort to consider many  
10 pending legislative proposals on the subject of budget process  
11 reform and modernization; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That a bipartisan  
13 Commission on Budgetary Reform be established under the  
14 direction of the Office of the President pro tempore of the  
15 Senate and the Office of the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives to study the budgetary process in an effort to  
17 propose changes which will improve and modernize the process to  
18 avoid future budget impasses; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the commission should expressly consider those  
20 statutory and rules changes which:

21 (1) establish fixed timelines and milestones for the  
22 orderly review and completion of the annual budget to include  
23 consequences if milestones are not met;

24 (2) adopt performance-based budgeting principles into  
25 the annual appropriations process;

26 (3) afford greater involvement in the process by every  
27 member of the Senate and the House of Representatives; and

28 (4) implement continuity provisions for State government  
29 operations in the event of a future budget impasse;

30 and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the commission be composed of members as  
2 follows: six members to be appointed by the Majority Leader of  
3 the Senate, six members to be appointed by the Minority Leader  
4 of the Senate, six members to be appointed by the Minority  
5 Leader of the House of Representatives and six members to be  
6 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
7 Representatives; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the commission be led by cochairmen, with the  
9 members of each party electing one of its members as chairman;  
10 and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That appointments be made within 15 days of the  
12 final approval of this resolution by the Senate and the House of  
13 Representatives; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the commission make a report of its findings  
15 and recommendations to the Senate and the House of  
16 Representatives by March 31, 2010, at which time the commission  
17 shall cease to exist; and be it further

18       RESOLVED, That the commission rely on the existing staff of  
19 the appointing authorities to the greatest extent possible; and  
20 be it further

21       RESOLVED, That necessary and reasonable costs and  
22 expenditures of the commission be paid from funds already  
23 appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives.