
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 862 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KAUFFMAN, MAY 4, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 4, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Adopting a temporary Rule of the House of Representatives
2 relating to powers and duties of standing committees to
3 issues subpoenas.

4 RESOLVED, That this resolution adopt a temporary rule to
5 apply notwithstanding provisions in the Rules of the House of
6 Representatives; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That each standing committee may issue subpoenas
8 for documents or testimony. Notwithstanding any other rule of
9 the House, subpoenas issued under this rule shall be in the name
10 of the committee and shall be signed by the chair of the
11 committee and attested by another member of the committee who
12 voted in favor of either authorizing the subpoena or authorizing
13 the chair to issue subpoenas.

14 A subpoena issued by a standing committee may be served upon
15 any person and shall have the force and effect of a subpoena
16 issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Subpoenas shall
17 be served by the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House or other person
18 designated by the committee when directed to do so by the
19 committee. Each subpoena shall be addressed to the witness and

1 shall state that the proceeding is before a committee of the
2 House for which the witness is required to attend and testify at
3 a specified time and place; or to produce books, papers,
4 records, accounts, reports, documents and data and information
5 produced and stored by any electronic data processing system; or
6 both, as the committee may also require. Mileage and witness
7 fees shall be paid by the House to the witness in an amount
8 prescribed by law. A person who willfully neglects or refuses to
9 comply with a subpoena issued by the committee shall be subject
10 to the penalties provided by the laws of this Commonwealth with
11 respect to such willful neglect or refusal. The committee may
12 quash or modify the subpoena if it finds the subpoena to be
13 overly broad or without proper purpose. Each member of the
14 committee shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations
15 to witnesses appearing before the committee.

16 All such subpoenaed books, papers, records, accounts,
17 reports, documents and data and information produced and stored
18 by any electronic data processing system shall be returned to
19 the person from whom such material was subpoenaed when the
20 committee has completed its examination of such material. Such
21 material, or any information derived therefrom not a part of
22 public sessions of the committee, may not be turned over to any
23 person or authority without the consent of the person from whom
24 such material was subpoenaed; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That, unless amended or revoked by the House,
26 except for the third paragraph of the second Resolved Clause of
27 this temporary rule, the temporary rule adopted in this
28 resolution shall expire upon the earlier of:

29 (1) the termination by executive order, proclamation or
30 operation of law of the declaration of disaster emergency

1 issued by the Governor on March 6, 2020; or
2 (2) the end of the legislative term.