
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 957 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SAPPEY, HENNESSEY, GALLOWAY, ROZZI, SANCHEZ,
SHUSTERMAN, CIRESI, HOWARD, STURLA, OTTEN AND O'MARA,
AUGUST 6, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, AUGUST 6, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Amending House Rule 45, further providing for powers and duties
2 of standing committees and subcommittees.

3 RESOLVED, That House Rule 45 be amended to read:

4 RULE 45

5 Powers and Duties of Standing Committees

6 and Subcommittees

7 The chair of each standing committee and subcommittee shall
8 fix regular weekly, biweekly or monthly meeting days for the
9 transaction of business before the committee or subcommittee.

10 The chair of the committee or subcommittee shall notify all
11 members, at least 24 hours in advance of the date, time and
12 place of regular meetings, and, insofar as possible, the
13 subjects on the agenda. In addition to regular meetings, special
14 meetings may be called from time to time by the chair of the
15 committee or subcommittee as they deem necessary. No recess or
16 combination of recesses shall exceed 48 hours for any committee
17 meeting or subcommittee meeting. No committee shall meet during

1 any session of the House without first obtaining permission of
2 the Speaker. During any such meeting, no vote shall be taken on
3 the Floor of the House on any amendment, recommittal motion,
4 final passage of any bill, or any other matter requiring a roll
5 call vote. Any committee meeting called off the Floor of the
6 House shall meet in a committee room. In addition to the
7 specific provisions of this rule, all provisions of 65 Pa.C.S.
8 Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings) relative to notice of meetings
9 shall be complied with.

10 At regularly scheduled meetings, or upon the call of the
11 chair, or subcommittee chair, for special meetings, the
12 membership of such committees shall meet to consider any bill,
13 resolution, or other matter on the agenda. The secretary of each
14 standing committee, or in case of subcommittees a secretary
15 designated by the subcommittee chair, shall record:

16 (1) the minutes of the meeting,

17 (2) all votes taken,

18 (3) a roll or attendance of members at standing committee or
19 subcommittee meetings showing the names of those present, absent
20 or excused from attendance, and the majority and minority chairs
21 or their designees shall verify by their signatures all votes
22 taken and the roll or attendance of those members present,
23 absent or excused before said records are submitted to the Chief
24 Clerk, and

25 (4) dispatch of bills and resolutions before the committee.

26 Such records shall be open to public inspection. On the first
27 legislative day of each week the House is in session, the chair
28 of each standing committee shall submit to the Chief Clerk for
29 inclusion in the House Journal only, the roll or record of
30 attendance of members at standing committee or subcommittee

1 meetings held prior thereto and not yet reported, along with the
2 record of all votes taken at such meetings. All reports from
3 standing committees shall be prepared in writing by the
4 secretary of the committee. Members of a standing committee may
5 prepare in writing and file a minority report, setting forth the
6 reasons for their dissent. Such committee reports shall be filed
7 with the Chief Clerk within five days of the meeting. All
8 meetings at which formal action is taken by a standing committee
9 or subcommittee shall be open to the public, making such reports
10 as are required under Rule 44. When any member, except for an
11 excused absence, fails to attend five consecutive regular
12 meetings of his or her committee, the chair of that committee or
13 subcommittee shall notify the member of that fact and, if the
14 member in question fails to reasonably justify absences to the
15 satisfaction of a majority of the membership of the standing
16 committee of which he or she is a member, membership on the
17 committee or subcommittee shall be deemed vacant and the chair
18 of the standing committee shall notify the Speaker of the House
19 to that effect. Such vacancy shall then be filled in the manner
20 prescribed by these rules.

21 Whenever the chair of any standing committee shall refuse to
22 call a regular meeting, then a majority of the members of the
23 standing committee may vote to call a meeting by giving two days
24 written notice to the Speaker of the House, setting the time and
25 place for such meeting. Such notice shall be read in the House
26 and the same posted by the Chief Clerk in the House Chamber.
27 Thereafter, the meeting shall be held at the time and place
28 specified in the notice. In addition, all provisions of 65
29 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 (relating to open meetings) relative to notice of
30 meetings shall be complied with.

1 Records, bills and other papers in the possession of
2 committees and subcommittees, upon final adjournment of the
3 House shall be filed with the Chief Clerk.

4 No committee report, except a report of the Appropriations
5 Committee, shall be recognized by the House, unless the same has
6 been acted upon by a majority vote of the members of a standing
7 committee present at a committee session actually assembled and
8 meeting as a committee, provided such majority vote numbers at
9 least 11 members, and provided further a quorum is present. No
10 committee report of the Appropriations Committee shall be
11 recognized by the House, unless the same has been acted upon by
12 a majority vote of the members of such committee present at a
13 committee session actually assembled and meeting as a committee,
14 provided such majority vote numbers at least 17 members, and
15 provided further a quorum is present.

16 No proxy voting shall be permitted in committee, except as
17 provided for herein. If a member reports to a scheduled
18 committee meeting and advises the chair and other members of a
19 conflicting committee meeting or other legislative meeting which
20 he or she must attend on the same day, the member is authorized
21 to give the chair or minority chair his or her proxy in writing
22 which shall be valid only for that day and which shall include
23 written instructions for the exercise of such proxy by the chair
24 or minority chair during the meeting. The member should also
25 advise the chair where he or she can be reached. In the event
26 the conflicting committee meeting or other legislative meeting
27 is scheduled to convene at the same time or prior to the meeting
28 at which a member desires to vote by proxy, such proxy shall be
29 delivered to both the chair and minority chair prior to, but on
30 the same day as, the conflicting meetings. In any voting meeting

1 of a committee held during a nonemergency, nonsession week, a
2 member of the committee who is not present may designate the
3 chair or minority chair to cast the member's vote on any
4 question. The designation shall be accomplished by filing an
5 attestation with the chair or minority chair which affirms that
6 the member will not be present at the voting meeting. A member
7 voting by designation during a meeting of a committee held
8 during a nonemergency, nonsession week shall be counted in
9 determining whether a quorum is present.

10 When the majority of the members of a standing committee
11 believe that a certain bill or resolution in the possession of
12 the standing committee should be considered and acted upon by
13 such committee, they may request the chair to include the same
14 as part of the business of a committee meeting. Upon failure of
15 the chair to comply with such request, the membership may
16 require that such bill be considered by written motion made and
17 approved by a majority vote of the entire membership to which
18 such committee is entitled.

19 Whenever the phrase "majority of members of a standing
20 committee or subcommittee" is used in these rules, it shall mean
21 majority of the entire membership to which a standing committee
22 or subcommittee is entitled, unless the context thereof
23 indicates a different intent.

24 To assist the House in appraising the administration of the
25 laws and in developing such amendments or related legislation as
26 it may deem necessary, each standing committee or subcommittee
27 of the House shall exercise continuous watchfulness of the
28 execution by the administrative agencies concerned of any laws,
29 the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of such
30 committee or subcommittee; and, for that purpose, shall study

1 all pertinent reports and data submitted to the House by the
2 agencies in the executive branch of the Government.

3 The Committee on Appropriations shall have the power to issue
4 subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chair commanding any
5 person to appear before it and answer questions touching matters
6 properly being inquired into by the committee, which matters
7 shall include data from any fund administered by the
8 Commonwealth, and to produce such books, papers, records,
9 accounts, reports, documents and data and information produced
10 and stored by any electronic data processing system as the
11 committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may be served upon any
12 person and shall have the force and effect of subpoenas issued
13 out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any person who willfully
14 neglects or refuses to testify before the committee or to
15 produce any books, papers, records, accounts, reports, documents
16 or data and information produced and stored by any electronic
17 data processing system shall be subject to the penalties
18 provided by the laws of the Commonwealth in such case. Each
19 member of the committee shall have power to administer oaths and
20 affirmations to witnesses appearing before the committee. The
21 committee may also cause the deposition of witnesses either
22 residing within or without the State to be taken in the manner
23 prescribed by law for taking depositions in civil actions.