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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1452 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, MAY 20, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 20, 2021

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AN ACT

1 Amending Titles 44 (Law and Justice) and 45 (Legal Notices) of  
2 the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for  
3 flexibility in emergency publication of the Pennsylvania  
4 Bulletin: in Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, further  
5 providing for definitions; and, in codification and  
6 publication of documents, further providing for preliminary  
7 publication in Pennsylvania Bulletin.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The General Assembly finds and declares as  
11 follows:

12 (1) Situations like the COVID-19 disaster emergency  
13 jeopardize the weekly publication of the Pennsylvania  
14 Bulletin.

15 (2) It is necessary to provide a procedure for the  
16 electronic publication of the Pennsylvania Bulletin and to  
17 provide flexibility on the date of publication when emergency  
18 circumstances dictate.

19 Section 2. The definitions of "legal material" and "official  
20 publisher" in section 702 of Title 44 of the Pennsylvania  
21 Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

1 § 702. Definitions.

2 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter  
3 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
4 context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 \* \* \*

6 "Legal material." Whether or not in effect, any of the  
7 following:

8 (1) The Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
9 Pennsylvania.

10 (2) The Laws of Pennsylvania under 1 Pa.C.S. § 1103  
11 (relating to preparation of statutes for printing).

12 (3) The Pennsylvania Code and the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

13 (4) A Commonwealth agency regulation that has or had the  
14 effect of law.

15 (5) (Reserved).

16 (6) Reported decisions of:

17 (i) the Supreme Court;

18 (ii) Superior Court; or

19 (iii) Commonwealth Court.

20 (7) Rules of court under 42 Pa.C.S. § 1722 (relating to  
21 adoption of administrative and procedural rules).

22 "Official publisher." As follows:

23 (1) For the Constitution of the Commonwealth of  
24 Pennsylvania, the bureau.

25 (2) For the Laws of Pennsylvania under 1 Pa.C.S. § 1105  
26 (relating to editing statutes for printing), the bureau.

27 (3) For the Pennsylvania Code[, the bureau] and the  
28 Pennsylvania Bulletin, the Joint Committee on Documents.

29 (4) For a regulation published in the Pennsylvania Code,  
30 the bureau.

1 (5) (Reserved).

2 (6) (Reserved).

3 (7) For a State court decision included under paragraph  
4 (6) of the definition of "legal material," the prothonotary  
5 of the applicable court.

6 (8) For rules of court under 42 Pa.C.S. § 1722, the  
7 Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts.

8 (9) (Reserved).

9 \* \* \*

10 Section 3. Section 724(b) of Title 45 is amended to read:

11 § 724. Preliminary publication in Pennsylvania Bulletin.

12 \* \* \*

13 (b) Frequency and format of bulletin.--The following shall  
14 apply:

15 (1) The bulletin shall be published at least once each  
16 week and shall contain all previously unpublished documents  
17 duly filed prior to the closing date and hour of the issue,  
18 which date and hour shall appear upon the first page of such  
19 issue. All issues of the bulletin shall contain a table of  
20 contents. A cumulative index shall be published at least once  
21 each three months. [The]

22 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the joint committee  
23 may provide for [more frequent] different publication of the  
24 bulletin and indices as circumstances may require.

25 (3) There shall be published with each document under  
26 this section a notation of the date of filing thereof.

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.