

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 79 Session of 2021

---

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, MARCH 17, 2021

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 17, 2021

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Providing the State Government Committee with enhanced  
2 legislative oversight powers as authorized under House Rules  
3 45 and 51 to properly execute its constitutional duties.

4 WHEREAS, Legislative power, including legislative oversight,  
5 is enshrined in the Constitution of the United States to provide  
6 checks and balances within our constitutional republic; and

7 WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of  
8 Pennsylvania vests legislative power in the General Assembly;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Under House Rule 45, to assist the House of  
11 Representatives in exercising legislative power, the State  
12 Government Committee is required to have "continuous  
13 watchfulness of the execution by the administrative agencies  
14 concerned of any laws" under its jurisdiction; and

15 WHEREAS, Moreover, House Rule 45 mandates that the State  
16 Government Committee "study all pertinent reports and data  
17 submitted" to the House of Representatives; and

18 WHEREAS, Under House Rule 51, upon a resolution introduced  
19 and approved by majority vote of the House of Representatives,

1 the State Government Committee may take any of the following  
2 actions:

3 (1) Send for persons and papers and subpoena witnesses,  
4 documents and other materials within the State Government  
5 Committee's jurisdiction under the hand and seal of the chair  
6 of the State Government Committee.

7 (2) Prepare and file pleadings and other legal documents  
8 as necessary to implement the State Government Committee's  
9 investigatory powers under House Rule 51;

10 and

11 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the State Government Committee  
12 utilize its legislative powers to oversee and investigate  
13 matters within its jurisdiction; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives provide the State  
15 Government Committee with enhanced legislative oversight powers  
16 as authorized under House Rules 45 and 51 to properly execute  
17 its constitutional duties; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the chair of the State Government Committee,  
19 on behalf of the State Government Committee and its  
20 subcommittees, be authorized to take any of the following  
21 actions:

22 (1) Send for persons and papers and subpoena witnesses,  
23 documents and other materials within the State Government  
24 Committee's jurisdiction under the hand and seal of the chair  
25 and approved by the Speaker of the House of Representative.

26 (2) Prepare and file pleadings and other legal documents  
27 necessary to implement the State Government Committee's  
28 investigatory powers under House Rule 51;

29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Sergeant-at-Arms or other person

1 designated by the chair of the State Government Committee serve  
2 the process of the State Government Committee and execute the  
3 orders of the chair or the State Government Committee; and be it  
4 further

5       RESOLVED, That the expenses be paid by the Chief Clerk of the  
6 House of Representatives from appropriation accounts under the  
7 Chief Clerk's exclusive control and jurisdiction, upon a written  
8 request approved by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
9 the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives or the  
10 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.