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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2618 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, HANBIDGE, GALLOWAY, HILL-EVANS, MILLARD,  
DELLOSO, YOUNGBLOOD, ROZZI, DeLUCA, SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG,  
SANCHEZ AND CIRESI, JUNE 23, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, JUNE 23, 2020

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in local organizations and services,  
3 further providing for general authority of political  
4 subdivisions.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 7501(d) of Title 35 of the Pennsylvania  
8 Consolidated Statutes, amended April 20, 2020 (P.L.82, No.15),  
9 is amended to read:

10 § 7501. General authority of political subdivisions.

11 \* \* \*

12 (d) Temporary suspension of formal requirements.--Each  
13 political subdivision included in a declaration of disaster  
14 emergency declared by either the Governor or the governing body  
15 of the political subdivision affected by the disaster emergency  
16 is authorized to exercise the powers vested under this section  
17 in the light of the exigencies of the emergency situation  
18 without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities

1 prescribed by law [(excepting mandatory constitutional  
2 requirements)], including those related to the location and  
3 conduct of hearings and meetings, excepting mandatory  
4 constitutional requirements. A political subdivision may  
5 accordingly exercise executive, legislative and judicial powers,  
6 including those pertaining to the performance of public work,  
7 entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the  
8 employment of temporary workers, the rental of equipment, the  
9 purchase of supplies and materials, the levying of taxes and the  
10 appropriation and expenditure of public funds. Notwithstanding  
11 any other provision of law, the governing body of a political  
12 subdivision shall not be required to have a quorum physically  
13 present at any one location in order to conduct business if a  
14 quorum is otherwise established by the participating members  
15 through an authorized telecommunication device.

16 \* \* \*

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.