

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 242 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY RABB, KENYATTA, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG AND FIEDLER, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Amending House Rule 17, further providing for order of business;
 2 and amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to
 3 provide for land acknowledgment.

4 RESOLVED, That House Rule 17 be amended to read:

5 RULE 17

6 ORDER OF BUSINESS

7 The daily order of business shall be:

8 (1) Land acknowledgment under Rule 17(a).

9 [(1)] (2) Prayer.

10 [(2)] (3) Pledge of Allegiance.

11 [(3)] (4) Correction and approval of the Journal.

12 [(4)] (5) Leaves of absence.

13 [(5)] (6) Master Roll Call.

14 [(6)] (7) Reports of Committee.

15 [(7)] (8) First consideration bills.

16 [(8)] (9) Second consideration bills.

17 [(9)] (10) Third consideration bills, final passage bills

18 (including both third consideration and final passage postponed

1 bills and resolutions).

2 [(10)] (11) Final passage bills recalled from the Governor.

3 [(11)] (12) Messages from the Senate and communications from
4 the Governor.

5 [(12)] (13) Reference to appropriate committees of bills,
6 resolutions, petitions, memorials, remonstrances and other
7 papers.

8 [(13)] (14) Unfinished business on the Speaker's table.

9 [(14)] (15) Announcements.

10 [(15)] (16) Adjournment.

11 Any question may, by a majority vote of the members elected,
12 be made a special order of business. When the time arrives for
13 its consideration, the Speaker shall lay the special order of
14 business before the House.

15 In lieu of offering House Resolutions on topics of importance
16 to members, any member, without unanimous consent, may address
17 the House on such issue and have his or her remarks entered into
18 the record during a special period of time established each week
19 by the Speaker either prior to, or at the conclusion of, House
20 business on a specific day.

21 RESOLVED, That the Rules of the House of Representatives be
22 amended by adding a rule to read:

23 RULE 17(a)

24 LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

25 The Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex sits on stolen land,
26 the territory of American Indian Tribal Nations.

27 American Indian history in Pennsylvania is complicated. It
28 has been since the Commonwealth became a place of refuge during
29 the 17th and 18th centuries for numerous American Indian tribal
30 nations whose original homeland was in states along the Atlantic

1 seaboard. Those displaced refugee American Indian tribal nations
2 joined with the original Lenape, Susquehannock, Erie, Shawnee
3 and Seneca inhabitants from the 16th to 18th centuries to make
4 up the American Indian tribal communities of early Pennsylvania
5 history.

6 By the early 19th century, American Indian tribal nations
7 were completely removed due to colonial wars, forced emigration
8 and forced land sales and treaties. It was not until the early
9 20th century that citizens of those historic and other federally
10 recognized nations from across the United States began to return
11 and relocate to Pennsylvania to live and work.

12 Because of this history, some of these American Indian tribal
13 nations no longer exist but were absorbed and amalgamated into
14 the other tribal nations that still exist today. In contemporary
15 times, these communities live in diaspora, spread across three
16 states and two countries. Those American Indian tribal nations
17 that comprise the historic and prehistoric American Indian
18 communities are:

19 (1) The Delaware Nation Lenni Lenape, Anadarko, Oklahoma.

20 (2) The Delaware Tribe of Indians, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

21 (3) The Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohicans, Bowler,
22 Wisconsin.

23 (4) The EELÜNAAPÉEWI LAHKÉEWIIT Delaware Nation,
24 Thamesville, Ontario.

25 (5) The Munsee Delaware Nation, Muncey, Ontario.

26 (6) The Shawnee Tribe, Miami, Oklahoma.

27 (7) The Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Wyandotte,
28 Oklahoma.

29 (8) The Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Shawnee, Oklahoma.

30 (9) The Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Grove, Oklahoma.

1 (10) The Seneca Nation, Salamanca, New York.

2 (11) The Tonawanda Seneca Nation, Akron, New York.

3 The statements contained in this rule serve as recognition of
4 this history, demonstrating a commitment from the House of
5 Representatives to dismantling the ongoing legacies of
6 colonialism. The House of Representatives cannot right the
7 injustices of the past with words alone, but through these
8 words, can begin a process of doing so.

9 On the first legislative day in a new term of the House of
10 Representatives, the following statement shall be read:

11 We, the members of the House of Representatives, acknowledge
12 that we meet and that the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex
13 sits on stolen land. We recognize this Commonwealth as the
14 ancestral home to many Indigenous peoples. These include the
15 Erie, Iroquois, Lenape, Munsee, Nanticoke, Shawnee,
16 Susquehannock, Delaware Nation Lenni Lenape-Anadarko,
17 Delaware Tribe of Indians-Bartlesville, Stockbridge Munsee
18 Band of Mohicans, EELÜNAAPÉEWI LAHKÉEWIIT Delaware Nation,
19 Munsee Delaware Nation, Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe
20 of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation,
21 Seneca Nation and Tonawanda Seneca Nation.

22 Pennsylvania became a place of refuge during the 17th and
23 18th centuries for numerous American Indian tribal nations
24 whose original homeland was in states along the Atlantic
25 seaboard. Those displaced American Indian tribal nations
26 joined with existing American Indian inhabitants from the
27 16th to 18th centuries to make up the American Indian tribal
28 communities of early Pennsylvania history.

29 By the early 19th century, American Indian tribal nations
30 were completely removed due to colonial wars, forced

1 emigration and forced land sales and treaties. It was not
2 until the early 20th century that citizens of those historic
3 and other federally recognized nations from across the United
4 States began to return and relocate to Pennsylvania to live
5 and work. Because of this history, some of these American
6 Indian tribal nations no longer exist but were absorbed and
7 amalgamated into the other tribal nations that still exist
8 today. In contemporary times, these communities live in
9 diaspora, spread across three states and two countries.
10 In offering this land acknowledgment, we affirm Indigenous
11 sovereignty, culture and experiences. We honor and recognize
12 American Indian tribal nation legacy and history and
13 celebrate their significant and ongoing contributions to this
14 Commonwealth. We mourn the murder, forced emigration, forced
15 land sale and treaties and cultural genocide faced by
16 American Indian tribal nations.
17 We commit to dismantling the ongoing legacies of colonialism
18 and protecting the history and traditions of American Indian
19 tribal groups that previously inhabited and currently inhabit
20 this Commonwealth.

21 On each legislative day after the first legislative day in a
22 new term of the House of Representatives, the following
23 statement shall be read:

24 We, the members of the House of Representatives, gather on
25 the land of Indigenous peoples that was never ceded by them. We
26 acknowledge that the land was founded upon exclusions and
27 erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those on whose
28 land the Pennsylvania State Capitol Complex is located. Our
29 acknowledgment demonstrates a recognition of the injustices
30 faced by Indigenous peoples and a commitment to dismantling the

1 ongoing legacies of colonialism.