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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 36 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, SANCHEZ, SAMUELSON, SHUSTERMAN, HANBIDGE,  
McNEILL, VITALI, SIMS, FREEMAN, HOHENSTEIN, MADDEN, CIRESI,  
WEBSTER, SCHWEYER AND D. WILLIAMS, APRIL 21, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 21, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Amending House Rules 21 and 24, further providing for  
2 consideration of bills and for third consideration and final  
3 passage bills.

4 RESOLVED, That House Rules 21 and 24 be amended to read:

5 RULE 21

6 Consideration of Bills

7 (a) Every bill and every joint resolution shall be  
8 considered on three different days. All amendments made thereto  
9 shall be printed for the use of the members before the final  
10 vote is taken thereon, and before the final vote is taken, upon  
11 written request addressed to the presiding officer by at least  
12 25% of the members elected to the House, any bill shall be read  
13 at length. No bill shall become law and no joint resolution  
14 adopted unless, on its final passage, the vote is taken by yeas  
15 and nays, the names of the persons voting for and against it are  
16 entered on the Journal, and a majority of the members elected to  
17 the House is recorded thereon as voting in its favor.  
18 (Constitution, Article III, Section 4).

1 (b) Members shall be notified of bills and resolutions  
2 scheduled to be voted no later than prior to the close of  
3 business at 4:30 P.M. of the second legislative day prior to the  
4 date of second consideration for legislation that has no legal  
5 deadline. (The General Appropriation Act and non-preferred bills  
6 are included within the definition of legislation that has no  
7 legal deadline.) Except as provided in subsection (d), all  
8 amendments shall be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk  
9 by 1:00 P.M. of the last legislative day preceding the scheduled  
10 date of second consideration. Members shall be notified of bills  
11 scheduled to be voted on third consideration. A change in the  
12 printer's number as a result of third consideration shall not  
13 require an additional notice of final passage. No vote on final  
14 passage can occur before the date of the scheduled vote.

15 (c) If the amendment cannot be submitted in accordance with  
16 the above subsection because it is still being prepared by the  
17 Legislative Reference Bureau, the member must provide the Office  
18 of the Chief Clerk with a statement, by the above-noted 1:00  
19 P.M. deadline, prepared by the member containing the factual  
20 content of said amendment along with certification from the  
21 Legislative Reference Bureau that the amendment was submitted to  
22 the Legislative Reference Bureau for drafting prior to the  
23 above-noted 1:00 P.M. deadline. The Legislative Reference Bureau  
24 may not issue a certificate for an amendment to a bill as  
25 amended by another amendment unless the requesting member can  
26 identify by number the underlying amendment.

27 (d) In cases where an amendment alters a bill so as to  
28 effectively rule out of order an amendment which was timely  
29 filed pursuant to the provisions of this rule, a replacement  
30 amendment may be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk

1 provided that the subject matter of the replacement amendment is  
2 not substantially different from the intent of the original  
3 amendment. The replacement amendment shall be deemed to have met  
4 the timely filed conditions provided for in this rule. The  
5 member shall notify the Speaker of the member's intent to file a  
6 replacement amendment and shall file a certificate with the  
7 Office of the Chief Clerk. The bill in question may continue to  
8 receive consideration but shall not be moved to third  
9 consideration until the replacement amendment is available for a  
10 vote. If consideration of the bill is delayed to a new  
11 legislative day due solely to delay in receipt of replacement  
12 amendments, then only amendments timely filed for the date of  
13 the originally scheduled vote and replacement amendments shall  
14 be considered. This limitation on amendments shall not apply to  
15 the bill in question if consideration of the bill is rescheduled  
16 beyond the new legislative day.

17 (e) A bill may not receive action on concurrence until at  
18 least [~~six~~] 24 hours have elapsed from the time the bill and its  
19 amendatory language was available to the public, unless the  
20 amendment was a technical amendment as described under the first  
21 paragraph of Rule 24 or an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the  
22 members elected to the House indicates they have had sufficient  
23 time to review the language and thereby approve proceeding with  
24 the bill.

25 A brief description of every bill on concurrence shall be  
26 given prior to a vote. Additionally, members shall be notified  
27 and conference committee reports shall be available to members  
28 at least 24 hours prior to the adoption of all conference  
29 committee reports. When these reports are considered on the  
30 first legislative day of the week, said notice shall be provided

1 no later than the close of business on the last business day  
2 preceding the vote. Notwithstanding notice provided, members  
3 may, by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members elected to the  
4 House, indicate that they have had sufficient time to review a  
5 conference committee report and that they approve proceeding  
6 with a vote.

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8 RULE 24

9 Third Consideration and Final Passage Bills

10 Bills on third consideration shall be considered in their  
11 calendar order and shall be subject to amendment only when an  
12 amendment is necessary to make the document internally  
13 consistent, to clear up an ambiguity, to correct grammar or to  
14 correct a drafting error or is necessary for purposes of  
15 statutory construction. An amendment under this paragraph shall  
16 not be subject to the filing deadlines under Rule 21. A bill  
17 having received consideration by the House on three different  
18 days and having been agreed to may be called by the Speaker to  
19 receive action on final passage; however, a bill may not receive  
20 action on final passage until at least [12] 24 hours have  
21 elapsed from the time the bill and its amendatory language was  
22 available to the public, unless the amendment was a technical  
23 amendment permitted under the first paragraph of this rule or an  
24 affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members elected to the House  
25 indicates that they have had sufficient time to review the  
26 language of the bill and thereby approve proceeding with the  
27 bill. Upon being called to receive action on final passage, the  
28 title and a brief description of a bill shall be read. A bill on  
29 final passage shall not be subject to amendment, but shall be  
30 subject to debate. At the conclusion of debate, the Speaker

1 shall then state the question as follows:

2 "This bill has been considered on three different days and  
3 agreed to and is now on final passage. The question is, shall  
4 the bill pass finally? Agreeable to the provision of the  
5 Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be taken."

6 When more than one bill shall be called for action on final  
7 passage at the same time, prior to voting, the title or a brief  
8 analysis of each bill shall be read.

9 The Speaker shall then state the question as follows:

10 "These bills have been considered on three different days and  
11 agreed to and are now on final passage. The question is, shall  
12 the bills on the uncontested calendar pass finally? Agreeable to  
13 the provision of the Constitution, the yeas and nays will now be  
14 taken."