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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 163 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, MASTRIANO, BARTOLOTTA,  
COSTA, PENNYCUICK, COLLETT, COMITTA, HAYWOOD AND L. WILLIAMS,  
JANUARY 19, 2023

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 19, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in open meetings, further providing  
3 for use of equipment during meetings and for General Assembly  
4 meetings covered.

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

7 Section 1. Sections 711(b) and 712 of Title 65 of the  
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 711. Use of equipment during meetings.

10 \* \* \*

11 (b) Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives.--[The]

12 Except as provided under section 712(b) (relating to General

13 Assembly meetings covered), the Senate and House of

14 Representatives may adopt rules governing the recording or

15 broadcast of their sessions and meetings and hearings of

16 committees.

17 § 712. General Assembly meetings covered.

18 (a) General rule.--Notwithstanding any other provision, for

1 the purpose of this chapter, meetings of the General Assembly  
2 which are covered are as follows: all meetings of committees  
3 where bills are considered, all hearings where testimony is  
4 taken and all sessions of the Senate and the House of  
5 Representatives. Not included in the intent of this chapter are  
6 caucuses or meetings of any ethics committee created pursuant to  
7 the Rules of the Senate or the House of Representatives.

8 (b) Recording and streaming.--The Senate and the House of  
9 Representatives shall record and post all meetings of committees  
10 and hearings covered under subsection (a) on the General  
11 Assembly's publicly accessible Internet website. When  
12 technically possible, the meetings of committees and hearings  
13 shall be available by live stream video.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.