
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 304

Session of
1977

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, STEWART, A. K. HUTCHINSON, LAUDADIO AND
LIVENGOOD, FEBRUARY 9, 1977

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 9, 1977

A JOINT RESOLUTION

1 Proposing an emergency Constitutional amendment to the
2 Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granting the
3 General Assembly the power to enact special laws to aid
4 certain individuals, corporations, associations, institutions
5 or nonpublic schools adversely affected by conditions caused
6 by certain storms, floods or tornados.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby resolves as follows:

9 Section 1. Many Pennsylvanians have suffered greatly from
10 the ravages of great storms or floods in the last few years. The
11 great storms, floods or tornados of 1974, 1975 and 1976 are
12 additional major disasters causing loss of life and great damage
13 and destruction to property of individuals, industrial and
14 commercial establishments and public facilities.

15 It is imperative that the victims of these disasters
16 immediately receive the fullest possible aid from both the
17 public and private sectors in order to clean up and rebuild the
18 affected areas of the Commonwealth and that persons in the
19 Commonwealth be eligible for the maximum available aid from the
20 government of the United States.

1 The General Assembly desires to alleviate such storm or
2 economic deprivation caused by the floods and storms but is
3 limited in its efforts by rigid restrictions in the Constitution
4 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The safety and welfare of
5 the Commonwealth requires prompt amendment to the Constitution
6 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

7 The following amendment to the Constitution of the
8 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is proposed in accordance with the
9 emergency provisions contained in subsections (a) and (b) of
10 section 1 of Article XI thereof:

11 That section 17 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the
12 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be amended to read:

13 § 17. Special emergency legislation.

14 Notwithstanding any provisions of this Constitution to the
15 contrary, the General Assembly shall have the authority to enact
16 laws providing for tax rebates, credits, exemptions, grants-in-
17 aid, State supplementations, or otherwise provide special
18 provisions for individuals, corporations, associations or
19 nonprofit institutions, including nonpublic schools (whether
20 sectarian or nonsectarian) in order to alleviate the danger,
21 damage, suffering or hardship faced by such individuals,
22 corporations, associations, institutions or nonpublic schools as
23 a result of Great Storms, [or] Floods or Tornadoes of September
24 1971, of June, 1972, [or] of 1974, [or] of 1975, or of July
25 1976.

26 Section 2. This proposed amendment shall be submitted by the
27 Secretary of the Commonwealth to the qualified electors of the
28 State at the municipal election to be held on November 2, 1977,
29 after the advertising requirements of subsection (a) of section
30 1 of Article XI of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of

1 Pennsylvania have been satisfied.