



SPONSOR: Rep. Baumbach & Rep. Schwartzkopf & Rep. Longhurst
& Rep. Mitchell & Sen. S. McBride & Sen. Sokola &
Sen. Townsend & Sen. Lockman & Sen. Brown
Reps. Freel, Griffith, K. Johnson, Osienski; Sens. Hansen,
Paradee, Walsh

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

DIRECTING THE STATE TO CONDUCT PANDEMIC AFTER- ACTION REVIEWS AND CONTINUE COVID-19
PANDEMIC MITIGATION EFFORTS.

1 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to surge across the nation, evolving into a series of different
2 variants, including delta and omicron, and caused over 79 million infections and more than 977,000 deaths nationwide in
3 the two years since it was first identified; and

4 WHEREAS, Delaware has recorded nearly 260,000 COVID-19 cases and over 2,800 deaths from this pandemic;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, schools, businesses, and daily lives have been disrupted as a result of the pandemic; and

7 WHEREAS, the state has provided more than 3 million COVID-19 tests, administered over 1.7 million
8 vaccinations and connected Delawareans with critical food, housing and healthcare supports; and

9 WHEREAS, the State has been successful in restarting its economy, while also lowering unemployment to 4.6%
10 from a pandemic high of 14%; and

11 WHEREAS, the federal government, through the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, has allocated
12 billions of dollars to Delaware to assist in the state's COVID-19 mitigation efforts and economic recovery; and

13 WHEREAS, maximizing the impact of federal pandemic relief funding and engaging in long-term mitigation
14 efforts remains crucial.

15 NOW, THEREFORE:

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the 151st General Assembly of the State of
17 Delaware, with the approval of the Governor, that the following measures be established to ensure the State's continued
18 attention and review of the mitigation efforts of the COVID-19 pandemic:

19 (1) The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) will
20 conduct After Action Reviews to assess the State's pandemic response and prepare for future crises.

21 (2) The General Assembly and the Governor will work cooperatively to identify targeted legislative initiatives
22 to address issues created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including workforce shortages in critical

23 industries such as health care, long-term care, childcare, as well as among state employees; the affordable housing
24 shortage; learning loss; increases in violent crime; and unemployment insurance capacity.

25 (3) The Governor and the General Assembly will work cooperatively to ensure adequate financial resources
26 are available to combat future surges of COVID-19.

27 (4) DEMA and DPH will continue to prepare for future COVID-19 surges by maintaining the ability to scale
28 up personnel and supplies as needed to deliver tests and vaccines.

29 (5) The After-Action Reviews, and cooperation between executive and legislative branches of the State of
30 Delaware, will be used to inform future responses to statewide emergencies and crises.

SYNOPSIS

The Joint Resolution directs the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and Division of Public Health (DPH) to conduct After Action Reviews to assess the State's pandemic response. DEMA and DPH are also maintaining the ability to increase personnel and supplies as needed in response to future surges of COVID-19. Additionally, the Joint Resolution directs the Legislative and Executive branches to work together on initiatives to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.