



SPONSOR: Rep. Shupe & Rep. Michael Smith & Sen. Pettyjohn
Reps. Collins, Dukes, Hensley, Lambert, Morrison,
Postles, Ramone, D. Short, Smyk, Yearick; Sens. Hocker,
Lawson, Richardson, Sokola

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

REQUESTING THE DIVISION OF RESEARCH, THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, AND THE DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION COOPERATE IN CREATING AN IMPLEMENTABLE PLAN TO STREAM LIVE AUDIO AND VIDEO OF ALL FLOOR AND COMMITTEE ACTION OF THE DELAWARE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE; RECORD ALL SUCH MATERIAL; AND MAKE THESE RECORDINGS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC VIA AN ONLINE ARCHIVE

1 WHEREAS, prior to 2020, the Delaware General Assembly only streamed live audio of its floor action in the
2 House of Representatives and Senate; and

3 WHEREAS, prior to 2020, the public did not have online access to the recordings of the floor action in either
4 chamber of the General Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, prior to 2020, most of the committee meetings in the House of Representatives and Senate were not
6 streamed online nor recorded in any fashion; and

7 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Delaware General Assembly last year to adopt new protocols
8 and reconsider how it shares its proceedings with the public; and

9 WHEREAS, the General Assembly typically conducts its business during the middle of the work week, when
10 many Delawareans cannot easily travel to Legislative Hall or listen to live feeds of the action; and

11 WHEREAS, other state legislatures in the nation stream all audio and video of their floor action and committee
12 meetings, record this material, and provide public online access to it; and

13 WHEREAS, since the spring of 2020, the Delaware General Assembly has adopted and implemented practices for
14 streaming the audio and video of its floor action, as well as all House of Representatives and Senate committee meetings;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, recordings of the floor action in the House of Representatives and Senate have been archived and
17 available for online public access since last spring; and

18 WHEREAS, recordings of most committee meetings have remained unavailable to the public; and

19 WHEREAS, the Delaware General Assembly has a duty to the citizens for which it works to be as open and
20 transparent in its operations as possible; and

21 WHEREAS, there is a broad range of equipment and software to facilitate online streaming and archiving of the
22 General Assembly's activities; and

23 WHEREAS, as the General Assembly demonstrated in 2020 and 2021 that it has the capability to quickly and
24 inexpensively adopt practices to make itself more digitally transparent and accessible to the public; and

25 WHEREAS, there is no reason why the Delaware General Assembly should not commit itself to investing in the
26 technology and infrastructure needed to empower citizens to better engage state government by accessing the work
27 performed by their elected officials.

28 NOW, THEREFORE:

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
30 Senate concurring therein, that the Division of Research, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Delaware
31 Department of Technology & Information (to be known as the General Assembly Streaming Working Group) are requested
32 to cooperate in creating an implementable plan to stream audio and video of all General Assembly public floor proceedings
33 and committee action; record all such material; and make these recordings available to the public via an online archive.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly Streaming Working Group shall consist of two
35 members each from the Division of Research, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Delaware Department of
36 Technology & Information. The representatives of each agency shall be determined by the top official of each agency. The
37 Director of the Division of Research shall select one of his two appointees to serve as chairperson of the group.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly Streaming Working Group may add ad hoc, non-voting
39 members as needed to complete its task.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly Streaming Working Group should receive staff support
41 from the Division of Research, and other such support as may be needed and requested from among the members of the
42 working group.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Division of Research shall guide the General Assembly Streaming
44 Working Group by doing, at a minimum, all of the following:

45 (1) Setting a date, time, and place for the initial meeting.

46 (2) Notifying the individuals listed in lines 34 through 37 of the formation of the General Assembly Streaming
47 Working Group and the need to appoint members, if applicable.

48 (3) Supervising the preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas, minutes, correspondence, and reports
49 of the General Assembly Streaming Working Group.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan crafted by the General Assembly Streaming Working Group should
51 assume the purchase and installation of the technology and devices required to facilitate the streaming of audio and video
52 from the House of Representatives and the Senate chambers, as well as all publicly accessible rooms in Legislative Hall and
53 the Tatnall Building where committee meetings are usually held.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan should emphasize the use of systems that can be accessed and used
55 by legislative staff and legislative fellows with a minimum of training.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan should consider cost-effective solutions when considering how to
57 capture, stream, record, and archive high-quality audio and video of the General Assembly's floor proceedings and
58 committee work.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan should contain, but not be limited to, the equipment, software, and
60 required infrastructure and training that will be acquired; the approximate total cost of the project; and a schedule for
61 implementing the system.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this plan should include a protocol for streaming and recording the audio/video of
63 any public committee meeting not taking place in a space equipped for it.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly Streaming Working Group, referencing the practices
65 used by the state legislature as part of its COVID-19 operational protocols, shall create a plan for an interim system for
66 streaming, recording, and posting all of the committee meetings and floor action of the House of Representatives and
67 Senate between January 1, 2022 and the date on which the permanent system it is developing under this concurrent
68 resolution is fully installed and functioning.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the plan should be completed and delivered to every member of the 151st
70 General Assembly, the governor, and the Delaware Public Archives no later than January 15, 2022. It shall also be posted
71 on the General Assembly's website no later than January 15, 2022.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the 151st General Assembly are requested to approve the
73 implementation of the plan via a bill that includes funding for the project in the first fiscal year following the enactment of
74 such legislation.

SYNOPSIS

Requesting the Division of Research, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Delaware Department of Technology & Information to cooperate in creating a detailed and implementable plan to stream audio and video of all floor and committee action of the House of Representatives and Senate; record all such material; and make these recordings available to the public via an online archive. The resolution further requests the 151st General Assembly and the governor to approve and act on the finished plan and authorize the funding needed to implement it.