

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO STRENGTHEN ETHICS IN STATE GOVERNMENT BY AMENDING THE HOUSE RULES TO PROHIBIT PERSONS ACTING AS LIAISONS OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT FROM BEING IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER WHEN THE HOUSE IS IN SESSION.

WHEREAS, during the recent debate on ethics in State government it has again become apparent that the Executive Branch of government seeks to influence and does influence a greater amount of legislation than any other collection of special interest groups in this State; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Branch of government is not entitled to have liaisons or representatives present in the offices of the Executive Branch in an attempt to influence the decisions of the Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the proper balance of power between the separate branches of government in order to preserve our heritage of good government by abiding by the constitutional doctrine of separation of power; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly was called into special session by the Governor, at great expense to the taxpayers, for the apparent purpose of rubber-stamping the Governor's proposed ethics legislation which has proven to be inadequately thought through and full of ambiguities and uncertain applications; and

WHEREAS, our form of government serves the people best when the Legislative Branch faces its responsibility of making laws and does not abdicate that duty to the Executive Branch,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MEETING IN ITS THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION:

That the Rules of the House of Representatives are hereby amended to prohibit representatives and liaisons of State constitutional officers from being present in the House Chamber except when the House is in recess or adjournment, or upon invitation by the House to attend a meeting of the committee of the whole.