

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 558      Session of  
2006

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INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, GANNON AND GEIST, JANUARY 30, 2006

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, JANUARY 30, 2006

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study  
2 and evaluate this Commonwealth's vulnerabilities regarding  
3 its transportation infrastructure to protect the public  
4 safety needs in the event of a natural disaster, a terror  
5 attack or a hazardous materials incident.

6 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes the need to  
7 provide safety and security to residents of this Commonwealth in  
8 the preparedness, prevention and response to terror attacks,  
9 natural disasters and hazardous materials incidents; and

10 WHEREAS, In the case of a disaster, the responsiveness of  
11 Pennsylvania's local officials and first responders and  
12 transportation employees will be of the utmost importance;  
13 therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
15 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study to  
16 review and evaluate the following:

17 (1) The ability of local governments to respond to this  
18 Commonwealth's needs in the event of a terror attack, natural  
19 disaster or hazardous materials incident.

1           (2) The safety and security of the cargo imported into  
2       this Commonwealth, including the distribution chain of  
3       freight from ports to trucking to railroads and backup  
4       systems required to ensure continuous operation of critical  
5       elements in the event of an incident;

6 and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the study include, in addition, a separate  
8       assessment for freight and intercity passenger rail  
9       transportation and a prioritized recommendation for:

10           (1) Improving the security of rail infrastructure and  
11       facilities, terminals, tunnels, rail bridges, rail switching  
12       areas and other areas as posing significant rail-related  
13       risks to public safety and the movement of interstate  
14       commerce, taking into account the impact that any proposed  
15       security measure might have on the provision of rail service.

16           (2) Training railroad employees in terrorism response  
17       activities, including provision of protective clothing,  
18       participation in exercises with county or regional task  
19       forces and deploying chemical and biological weapons  
20       detection equipment.

21           (3) Passenger and cargo security protection systems,  
22       including, but not limited to, passenger and cargo screening,  
23       procedural policies, communication systems and emergency  
24       response planning;

25 and be it further

26       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
27       Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a  
28       transportation infrastructure vulnerability assessment to  
29       evaluate this Commonwealth's preparedness to meet safety and  
30       security needs of the public in the event of a natural disaster,

1 terror attack or hazardous materials incident; and be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
3 make a report of its findings and recommendations to the Speaker  
4 of the House of Representatives and to the Professional  
5 Licensure Committee within six months of the adoption of this  
6 resolution and issue interim reports to the Speaker of the House  
7 of Representatives and the Professional Licensure Committee as  
8 it deems necessary.