

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 640 Session of
1991

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, CESSAR, GEIST, OLASZ, FAIRCHILD,
PRESTON, PISTELLA, ROBINSON, GRUPPO, STUBAN, MARSICO,
VAN HORNE, R. C. WRIGHT, ADOLPH, TANGRETTI, COLE,
CAPPABIANCA, STRITTMATTER, SALOOM, PETRONE, CARLSON,
PHILLIPS, TIGUE, G. SNYDER, HERSHEY, TRELLO, WAMBACH, RUDY,
RIEGER, FARMER, MAYERNIK, VEON, FARGO, SCHULER, JOHNSON,
SAURMAN, PESCI, STISH, BATTISTO, KASUNIC, MELIO, KAISER,
McCALL, DeLUCA, D. R. WRIGHT, DALEY, CLARK, STAIRS,
D. W. SNYDER, STEIGHNER, CIVERA, COLAFELLA, TELEK, COLAIZZO,
HESS, BROUJOS, GEORGE, DONATUCCI, FEE, NOYE, FLEAGLE,
GIGLIOTTI, LAUGHLIN, WOZNIAK, HALUSKA, B. SMITH, GRUITZA,
LaGROTTA, STABACK, LESCOVITZ, KUKOVICH, KOSINSKI, CORRIGAN,
McNALLY, MRKONIC, BILLOW, FLICK, FOX AND MICHLOVIC,
MARCH 12, 1991

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 18, 1991

AN ACT

1 Assigning development of high speed ~~intercity rail passenger~~ <—
2 GROUND TRANSPORTATION service to the Pennsylvania Turnpike <—
3 Commission and providing for its powers and duties; and
4 making appropriations.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the High Speed
9 ~~Intercity Rail Passenger~~ GROUND TRANSPORTATION Act. <—

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

3 "Oversight committee." A committee composed of the majority
4 and minority transportation committees of the Senate and the
5 majority and minority transportation committees of the House of
6 Representatives or their designees.

7 "System." ~~A high speed intercity rail passenger system for~~ <—

8 ~~the Commonwealth.~~ A REGIONAL HIGH SPEED GROUND TRANSPORTATION <—

9 SYSTEM LINKING METROPOLITAN CITIES, AIRPORTS AND POPULATION

10 CENTERS WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

11 Section 3. Powers and duties.

12 The commission shall have the overall responsibility, power
13 and duty to propose and make recommendations for the

14 establishment and operation of a high speed ~~intercity rail~~ <—

15 ~~passenger~~ GROUND TRANSPORTATION system within this Commonwealth <—

16 connecting Philadelphia, Paoli, Lancaster, Harrisburg,

17 Lewistown, State College, Altoona, Johnstown, Greensburg and

18 Pittsburgh. The commission shall also study the feasibility of

19 adding connecting service from this main service line to the

20 following areas: New Castle, Meadville, Erie, Scranton, Wilkes-

21 Barre and Allentown. THE HIGH SPEED GROUND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM <—

22 SHALL BE EITHER STEEL WHEEL ON STEEL RAIL, OR MAGNETIC

23 LEVITATION TECHNOLOGY, OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH.

24 Section 4. Designation of plan; selection of vendor.

25 The commission shall solicit proposals from vendors

26 interested in developing, in conjunction with the commission, a

27 high speed ~~intercity rail~~ GROUND TRANSPORTATION system within <—

28 this Commonwealth in accordance with the specific areas and

29 issues identified in this section. The commission shall make its

30 final report under this act no later than 18 months after the

1 effective date of this act including preliminary designation, if
2 appropriate, of a vendor, adoption of a plan, franchising
3 agreement and a request for an appropriation from the General
4 Assembly to fund the program. This recommendation shall address
5 the following specific areas and issues:

6 (1) The level of demand for high speed ~~intercity rail~~ <—
7 GROUND TRANSPORTATION service in this Commonwealth ~~as updated~~ <—
8 ~~by the council~~.

9 (2) The degree of high speed ~~rail~~ GROUND TRANSPORTATION <—
10 service required to meet such demand.

11 (3) System, equipment, roadbed, right-of-way and other
12 technical and technological options.

13 (4) Location and extent of the specific routes in the
14 system as established in section 3.

15 (5) Cost of implementing the system.

16 (6) Socio-economic impact of the system; and value-
17 captured station sites.

18 (7) Financing, ownership and operating requirements for
19 the system in separate station sites.

20 (8) ABILITY TO MANUFACTURE ALL OR PART OF THE SYSTEM IN <—
21 THIS COMMONWEALTH.

22 Section 5. Staff.

23 The commission may employ such professional, technical and
24 clerical staff and engage the services of consultants as it
25 deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this
26 act.

27 Section 6. Reports.

28 The commission shall make at least annual reports of its
29 activities and recommendations with respect to this act to the
30 General Assembly and the Governor and shall meet at least six

1 times per year with the oversight committee.

2 Section 7. Finances and contributions.

3 In addition to the moneys appropriated by section 8 and such
4 other moneys as may be appropriated from time to time by the
5 General Assembly for its work, the commission is authorized to
6 make application for and expend such Federal grants as may be
7 available and may also receive and expend contributions from
8 other public, quasi-public or private sources as may become
9 available.

10 Section 8. Appropriations.

11 The sum of \$300,000 is hereby appropriated to the
12 Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Such appropriations shall not
13 lapse.

14 Section 9. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect in 30 days.