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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 188      Session of  
1995

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INTRODUCED BY GEIST, MELIO, FICHTER, BUNT, MASLAND, McGEEHAN,  
RUBLEY, LYNCH, HERSHEY, HERMAN, S. H. SMITH, DEMPSEY, BARD,  
STABACK, ARGALL, HUTCHINSON, MIHALICH, PETTIT, ZUG, STAIRS,  
WALKO, STURLA, FLICK, LAUGHLIN, PISTELLA, GIGLIOTTI,  
CHADWICK, BELARDI, DRUCE, HESS, DIGIROLAMO, D. W. SNYDER,  
FAJT, B. SMITH, JOSEPHS, LaGROTTA, LEVDANSKY, VAN HORNE,  
PESCI, TRELLO AND STERN, JUNE 27, 1995

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 27, 1995

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Relating to the development of a national system of heritage  
2 tour routes.

3 WHEREAS, The establishment of the National Heritage Tour  
4 Route Program would create a Federal/State partnership program  
5 that will encourage, plan and set up a national system of  
6 heritage tour routes and complementary projects such as trails  
7 and bicycle routes; and

8 WHEREAS, As well as providing linkages for regional  
9 communities and sites, this program would promote economic  
10 development and resource conservation among America's  
11 communities and countryside. The program would focus on economic  
12 development and heritage conservation and would embody an  
13 integrated philosophy of highway development and, in fact, would  
14 encourage development of alternative transportation initiatives  
15 such as bike lanes and pullouts where appropriate; and

1       WHEREAS, From Lancaster County to Independence National  
2 Historical Park, Americans and foreign visitors have made  
3 tourism a leading United States industry. In 30 states, tourism  
4 is among the top three employers. After health care, tourism is  
5 the largest employer in the United States, representing the  
6 third largest retail segment of the economy with sales more than  
7 \$400 billion. Growth of tourism is projected by the United  
8 States Travel Data Service at 30% over the next ten years with  
9 some segments at 40% to 50%; and

10       WHEREAS, Heritage tourism and rural tourism have become  
11 leading growth segments of America's tourism industry. The  
12 United States Travel and Tourism Administration's annual in-  
13 flight survey of overseas visitors to the United States in 1993  
14 ranked visits to historical places among the top five activities  
15 and touring the countryside and visits to national parks among  
16 the top ten activities; and

17       WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture reports  
18 that tourism, home-based businesses and small-scale retailing  
19 are the leading areas of interest among rural communities  
20 seeking technical assistance in economic development. For many  
21 of America's rural and regional communities, real places where  
22 people live, tourism development has become a hope for economic  
23 regeneration; and

24       WHEREAS, Heritage tour routes provide a strategy to bring  
25 people from towns and hamlets into regional coalitions; and

26       WHEREAS, The purpose of the National Heritage Tour Route  
27 Program would be the promotion of economic development  
28 initiatives through heritage tourism, promotion of interstate  
29 commerce and the fostering of a greater appreciation of the  
30 heritage upon which this country was founded and the resources

1    which made this country great; and

2       WHEREAS, The process for the implementation of this program  
3    would be regional in scope but would also ensure careful  
4    consideration of local issues and resources; and

5       WHEREAS, The routes would also serve to link resources of  
6    national interest, State heritage parks or State heritage  
7    corridors and would enhance cooperation among these areas as  
8    well as connect significant visitor destinations; and

9       WHEREAS, The heritage tour route program would be grass-  
10   roots-driven and resource-based and would clearly reflect the  
11   vision established by local consensus. It would be driven as  
12   well by the natural, cultural and recreational resources of a  
13   region, and it would focus on themes and resources that the  
14   communities think are important to their community values. The  
15   establishment of a tour route would be process-driven and  
16   community-based; and

17       WHEREAS, The first national heritage tour route, the "Path of  
18   Progress," was established in southwestern Pennsylvania; and

19       WHEREAS, The "Path of Progress" is facilitated by the  
20   Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission in  
21   partnership with numerous government bodies, public and private  
22   organizations and individuals; therefore be it

23       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives support the  
24   establishment of a national system of heritage tour routes and  
25   pledge the full support of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for  
26   this initiative; and be it further

27       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives endeavor to  
28   support and encourage the development of regional heritage  
29   development entities to facilitate this effort in partnership  
30   with these entities in making this a viable program throughout

1 this Commonwealth and across the Nation; and be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
3 "Path of Progress" as a Commonwealth heritage tour route and  
4 shall support the "Path of Progress" as appropriate.