

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 75

Session of  
2005

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, D. EVANS, BAKER, BALDWIN, BLACKWELL, BOYD, BROWNE, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, CORRIGAN, CRAHALLA, CRUZ, CURRY, DALEY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FLICK, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GOOD, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KILLION, LaGROTTA, LEDERER, LEVDANSKY, MACKERETH, MANDERINO, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McILHATTAN, MELIO, R. MILLER, MUSTIO, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PETRARCA, PETRI, PETRONE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, REED, REICHLEY, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SEMMEL, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, STURLA, SURRA, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRUE, WALKO, WANSACZ, WILT AND WOJNAROSKI, FEBRUARY 14, 2005

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 12, 2005

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a bipartisan and intergovernmental commission  
2 consisting of representatives of public and private sectors  
3 to make recommendations that will provide guidance for  
4 administrative and legislative changes to improve the  
5 economic competitiveness of this Commonwealth's cities,  
6 boroughs and rural communities.

7 WHEREAS, The economic health and competitiveness of this  
8 Commonwealth is a top priority; and

9 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has net population migration from  
10 its cities, boroughs and rural communities to outlying areas,  
11 consuming agricultural lands and other open spaces; and

12 WHEREAS, Population loss from the cities, boroughs and rural  
13 communities causes the decline of those communities and their  
14 tax bases, weakening their abilities to compete; and

1       WHEREAS, Commonwealth laws, policies and investments can  
2 significantly impact developmental trends; and

3       WHEREAS, Commonwealth laws, policies and investments can  
4 promote economic competitiveness and impact the health of its  
5 cities, boroughs and rural communities; and

6       WHEREAS, Governmental decisions can mitigate or even reverse  
7 the developmental trends of outward migration from cities,  
8 boroughs and rural communities; and

9       WHEREAS, Numerous studies, hearings and forums from academia,  
10 research organizations, interest groups, governmental agencies,  
11 associations and others have demonstrated areas of improvement  
12 for governmental policies and investments; therefore be it

13       RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
14 establish a bipartisan and intergovernmental commission  
15 consisting of representatives of public and private sectors to  
16 review these published studies, reports and documents, compare  
17 them to current Commonwealth laws, policies, practices and  
18 investments and make recommendations that will provide guidance  
19 for administrative and legislative changes to improve the  
20 economic competitiveness of the cities, boroughs and rural  
21 communities of this Commonwealth; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That the commission's recommendations include, but  
23 not be limited to, those which:

24           (1) provide an overarching vision for how funds and  
25 decisions should be targeted;

26           (2) provide a clear mechanism for understanding how  
27 funds are currently spent and where;

28           (3) list ways to promote private sector redevelopment  
29 opportunities within cities, boroughs and rural communities;

30           (4) make specific recommendations for administrative

1 policies on programs directly affecting developmental trends;

2 (5) establish a system for ongoing program evaluation;

3 and

4 (6) make recommendations for statutory changes that may  
5 be necessary to mitigate or reverse these trends;

6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the commission be comprised of members as  
8 follows:

9 (1) Four members to be appointed by the Governor, with  
10 at least three appointments being members of the general  
11 public, including one from the governing body of a  
12 municipality, one from the ~~business community~~ MEMBERSHIP OF <—  
13 THE PENNSYLVANIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION and one  
14 from a Statewide nonprofit organization with related  
15 expertise.

16 (2) ~~Two~~ THREE members to be appointed by the President <—  
17 pro tempore of the Senate and ~~two~~ THREE members to be <—  
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
19 with no more than ~~one appointment~~ TWO APPOINTMENTS from each <—  
20 authority being a State governmental official or employee.

21 (3) ~~Two~~ THREE members to be appointed by the Majority <—  
22 Leader of the Senate and ~~two~~ THREE members to be appointed by <—  
23 the Minority Leader of the Senate, with no more than ~~one~~ <—  
24 ~~appointment~~ TWO APPOINTMENTS from each authority being a <—  
25 State governmental official or employee.

26 (4) ~~Two~~ THREE members to be appointed by the Majority <—  
27 Leader of the House of Representatives and ~~two~~ THREE members <—  
28 to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
29 Representatives with no more than ~~one appointment~~ TWO <—  
30 APPOINTMENTS from each authority being a State governmental

official or employee.

~~(5) The chairman and minority chairman of the~~  
~~Appropriations Committee of the Senate, or their designees.~~

~~(6) The chairman and minority chairman of the~~  
~~Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, or~~  
~~their designees.~~

~~(7)~~ (5) The Secretary of Community and Economic  
Development, the Secretary of Environmental Protection, the  
Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Budget,  
~~the director of work force investment and the director of housing~~  
~~and community development~~ AND THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND  
INDUSTRY, or their designees, who shall serve as ex officio,  
nonvoting members for the purpose of providing staff support;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the appointments to the commission be made  
within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution by the Senate  
and the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission elect a chairman by majority  
vote of its members; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission make a report of its findings  
and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by  
November 30, 2006, on which date the commission shall cease to  
exist; and be it further

~~RESOLVED, That the chairman rely on the existing staff of the~~  
~~appointing authorities and the Appropriations Committee of the~~  
~~Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of~~  
~~Representatives to the greatest extent possible and may contract~~  
~~out or hire~~ UTILIZE THE PENNSYLVANIA JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT

COMMISSION STAFF AND MAY CONTRACT OUT OR HIRE ADDITIONAL staff  
for performance of the administrative duties required by this

1 resolution; and be it further

2       RESOLVED, That the necessary and reasonable costs and  
3 expenditures of the commission be authorized to be paid from  
4 funds already appropriated by the General Assembly to the Office  
5 of the Budget and the Office of Administration; and be it  
6 further

7       RESOLVED, That the commission comply with all the duties and  
8 responsibilities of a covered agency under 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7  
9 (relating to open meetings).