

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 89 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DENLINGER, COX, STERN, M.K. KELLER, ROAE AND CUTLER, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study and
 2 review the economic impacts on the regulated community and on
 3 the Commonwealth of implementation of the 2008 amendments to
 4 the Dog Law and the regulatory standards which were adopted
 5 to implement the legislation.

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes that operating a
 7 commercial dog kennel is a legal enterprise authorized and
 8 regulated under the act of December 7, 1982 (P.L.784, No.225),
 9 known as the Dog Law; and

10 WHEREAS, Owners of commercial dog kennels have made
 11 substantial investments in land, buildings, equipment, animals,
 12 veterinary care, food and supplies to operate their businesses;
 13 and

14 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the number of licensed
 15 commercial dog kennels has been reduced by more than 75% since
 16 the enactment of amendments to the Dog Law by the act of October
 17 9, 2008 (P.L.1450, No.119); and

18 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the economic losses suffered by
 19 these important small businesses is potentially millions of

1 dollars; and

2 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the loss of these kennels has
3 resulted in the loss of numerous full-time and part-time
4 positions, the loss of several million dollars in sales tax and
5 the loss of many millions of dollars in taxable income; and

6 WHEREAS, Due to the loss of commercial dog kennels, it is
7 estimated that the veterinary services industry has lost
8 considerable income and that the sale of pet products and dog
9 food has significantly declined; and

10 WHEREAS, The professional engineers who must certify the
11 ventilation systems as required under 7 Pa. Code Ch. 28a
12 (relating to commercial kennel canine health regulations) have
13 raised questions about the reasonableness and appropriateness of
14 some of the standards required; and

15 WHEREAS, Questions have been raised related to whether or not
16 the costs associated with implementing the requirements of the
17 regulatory standards are reasonable and appropriate; and

18 WHEREAS, Obtaining the proper guidance for professional
19 engineers will take time and require possible modification of
20 the regulatory standards before they can be implemented;
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
23 State Government Commission to study and review the economic
24 impact of the act of October 9, 2008 (P.L.1450, No.119), on the
25 regulated commercial dog kennel industry, its business service
26 sectors and the Commonwealth and the estimated impacts of the
27 implementation of the regulatory standards which take effect on
28 July 1, 2011; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the study address the following:

30 (1) The feasibility of implementing the commercial

1 kennel canine health regulatory standards on July 1, 2011.

2 (2) The scope of amendments to the Dog Law which might
3 be desirable refinements to address the problems identified
4 by the certifying entities.

5 (3) The scope of amendments to the commercial kennel
6 canine health regulatory standards adopted under the act of
7 October 9, 2008 (P.L.1450, No.119), which might be desirable
8 refinements to address the problems identified by the
9 certifying entities.

10 (4) The estimated economic impact on these small
11 businesses and on the Commonwealth from implementation of the
12 act of October 9, 2008 (P.L.1450, No.119), and its
13 accompanying regulatory standards; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government
15 Commission regarding paragraph (1) be submitted to the House of
16 Representatives by June 1, 2011, and the report concerning
17 paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) be submitted by December 31, 2011.