

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 106 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY CAUSER, HENNESSEY, BAKER, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DAY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, GABLER, GEIST, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GROVE, HARRIS, HESS, HICKERNELL, HUTCHINSON, M.K. KELLER, KILLION, MAJOR, MARSICO, MILLARD, MILLER, MILNE, MOUL, MURT, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PEIFER, PICKETT, PYLE, RAPP, REICHLEY, ROAE, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STERN, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH AND WATSON, MARCH 2, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, MARCH 2, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the Pennsylvania Lottery relating to its
3 ability to continue to support programs and services for
4 older Pennsylvanians.

5 WHEREAS, When the General Assembly enacted the State Lottery
6 Law in August 1971, the Commonwealth became the fifth state to
7 authorize the operation of a lottery; and

8 WHEREAS, Although 46 jurisdictions currently have legal
9 lotteries, the Pennsylvania Lottery remains the only program
10 that earmarks lottery profits solely for programs and services
11 for older residents; and

12 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has one of the oldest populations
13 in the United States, with statistics indicating that one out of
14 every five people is 60 years of age or older; and

15 WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Pennsylvania Lottery has

1 provided more than \$20.1 billion to allow older citizens to
2 benefit from a variety of programs and services, including low-
3 cost prescription drugs, property tax and rent rebates, low-cost
4 senior transportation programs, long-term care services
5 administered by the Department of Public Welfare and home and
6 community-based services made available through local area
7 agencies on aging and senior community centers throughout this
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, According to Pennsylvania Lottery reports, in fiscal
10 year 2009-2010, the lottery had sales of more than \$3.06 billion
11 and contributions to programs for older Pennsylvanians totaled
12 more than \$915 million; and

13 WHEREAS, Since the introduction of casino gambling in this
14 Commonwealth, a lingering concern has existed regarding the
15 impact of legalized slot machines and table games on lottery
16 sales; and

17 WHEREAS, State Lottery Fund revenues have increasingly been
18 drawn upon to meet certain General Fund obligations, as well as
19 to expedite property tax relief for some residents of this
20 Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, Recent economic trends raise serious questions
22 regarding the future ability of the State Lottery Fund to meet
23 the increasing demand for services for older Pennsylvanians; and

24 WHEREAS, The last comprehensive review of State Lottery
25 funding of programs and services for older Pennsylvanians was
26 conducted as mandated under the former Lottery Fund Preservation
27 Act and resulted in a June 1994 report issued by the Legislative
28 Budget and Finance Committee; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
30 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of

1 the Pennsylvania Lottery relating to its ability to continue to
2 support programs and services for older Pennsylvanians; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
5 identify all programs, services and functions funded through the
6 State Lottery Fund and determine their costs and services or
7 activity levels; examine all State Lottery Fund programs,
8 services and functions and analyze projections of future program
9 demand, service levels and associated costs; determine the
10 current and projected financial condition of the State Lottery
11 Fund; analyze Pennsylvania Lottery sales, including both short-
12 term and long-term projections of net collections, to determine
13 if State Lottery Fund revenues will be sufficient to support
14 lottery-funded programs, services and functions at existing or
15 expanded levels or, if cutbacks or program changes will be
16 necessary, to maintain the solvency of the State Lottery Fund;
17 and determine if changes to law, regulation or policy are needed
18 to maintain the future solvency of the State Lottery Fund; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
21 prepare a report of its findings and transmit copies of the
22 report to the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee and the
23 Finance Committee of the House of Representatives no later than
24 six months after adoption of this resolution.