

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 451 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO,
GOODMAN, KULA, MCGEEHAN, M. O'BRIEN, READSHAW, SCHRODER AND
WAGNER, OCTOBER 12, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
OCTOBER 12, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and
2 the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a
3 task force to study the feasibility of implementing a water
4 resource restoration sponsorship program.

5 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is increasingly
6 concerned with the restoration and preservation of Commonwealth
7 streams and wetlands; and

8 WHEREAS, A current lack in funding is deterring the
9 Commonwealth from readily addressing this important
10 environmental concern; and

11 WHEREAS, Ohio has established a program known as the Water
12 Resource Restoration Sponsor Program to permit communities to
13 provide funding toward stream and wetland restoration and
14 preservation projects in conjunction with improvements and
15 repairs to wastewater collection systems and treatment plants;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Any community that receives a loan for wastewater
18 treatment or other improvements and agrees to sponsor a water

resource restoration project receives a reduction in its loan interest rate under the Ohio program; and

WHEREAS, The loan recipient receives an additional reduction in its interest rate as an incentive; and

WHEREAS, The lower interest rate produces a net savings for the loan recipient over what the original loan would have cost to repay without the sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, Ohio's program has successfully provided more than \$35 million to numerous restoration projects since its inception in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Other states, including Washington, Michigan, Oregon and Iowa, have established similar water restoration sponsorship programs; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that restoration and preservation of streams and wetlands throughout this Commonwealth receive adequate funding to further protect and conserve the environment as a whole; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a task force to study the feasibility of establishing a water resource restoration sponsorship program in this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the task force be urged to present its findings to the General Assembly.