

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 465 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY SAINATO, BARRAR, DAVIS, MARSHALL, LONGIETTI,  
AUMENT, BAKER, BISHOP, BRADFORD, BROOKS, BROWNLEE, BURNS,  
CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DEASY, DeLUCA,  
DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FARRY, FLECK, FREEMAN, GEIST,  
GIBBONS, GOODMAN, GROVE, HENNESSEY, HESS, HORNAMAN, KILLION,  
KIRKLAND, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO,  
McGEEHAN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL,  
PRESTON, QUINN, RAPP, RAVENSTAHL, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROSS,  
SANTONI, STABACK, STURLA, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOOIL, VEREB AND  
WATSON, OCTOBER 19, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER  
19, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the dedication and fortitude of the emergency  
2 response community in Pennsylvania who worked tirelessly  
3 during the preparation and recovery periods of Hurricane  
4 Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

5 WHEREAS, On the days of August 27 and 28, 2011, Pennsylvania  
6 witnessed one of Mother Nature's most destructive weather events  
7 as Hurricane Irene pounded this Commonwealth as a Category 1  
8 hurricane; and

9 WHEREAS, The winds of Hurricane Irene, combined with  
10 saturated grounds due to heavy rain, contributed to flooding,  
11 structural damages, downed power lines and many uprooted trees  
12 across this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, As the ninth named storm and first major hurricane  
14 of the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season, Hurricane Irene was

1 responsible for at least 45 deaths in the eastern United States;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management  
4 Agency (PEMA), Hurricane Irene was associated with five deaths  
5 and more than 760,000 people without power across this  
6 Commonwealth, leading 13 counties to declare states of  
7 emergency; and

8 WHEREAS, During the days of September 6 through 10, 2011,  
9 Pennsylvania endured yet another catastrophic weather event as  
10 heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Lee stalled over central and  
11 eastern portions of this State, held in place by Hurricane Katia  
12 off the mid-Atlantic coast; and

13 WHEREAS, Additional heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Lee,  
14 combined with already saturated grounds from Hurricane Irene,  
15 created one of the most devastating flooding events in central  
16 and eastern Pennsylvania, with many areas experiencing flood  
17 levels close to or exceeding the historic levels caused by  
18 Hurricane Agnes in late June of 1972; and

19 WHEREAS, As the 12th named storm of the 2011 Atlantic  
20 hurricane season, Tropical Storm Lee caused widespread damage  
21 and devastation to parts of this Commonwealth already reeling  
22 from the effects of Hurricane Irene; and

23 WHEREAS, The State Emergency Operations Center, operating at  
24 elevated levels every day since August 25 during the preparation  
25 and recovery periods of both Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm  
26 Lee, witnessed its first Level 1 status since September 11,  
27 2001; and

28 WHEREAS, According to PEMA, 13 counties received Federal  
29 emergency declarations for Hurricane Irene and 42 counties  
30 received Federal emergency declarations for Tropical Storm Lee;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, PEMA also reports that to date, more than \$61  
3 million in funds have been approved for individual assistance  
4 and 20 Disaster Recovery Centers have opened throughout this  
5 Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is  
7 supplying temporary housing units to address the shortage of  
8 short-term housing available in the northern tier counties; and

9 WHEREAS, As efforts are made to assist the Commonwealth in  
10 the recovery from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, total  
11 damage amounts and reports are still being compiled; and

12 WHEREAS, Preparation and recovery during widespread  
13 emergencies such as Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee  
14 involve collaboration among the community, private industry and  
15 various governmental and nongovernmental agencies; and

16 WHEREAS, Fire departments, law enforcement agencies, utility  
17 companies and the Pennsylvania National Guard united together to  
18 assist affected Commonwealth citizens in the preparation and  
19 recovery periods of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee; and

20 WHEREAS, Various agencies within the emergency response  
21 community in this Commonwealth continue to be committed to  
22 helping all residents, communities and businesses in the  
23 preparation for and recovery from any and all emergencies,  
24 including Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee; and

25 WHEREAS, The determination and fortitude of the thousands of  
26 men and women who worked tirelessly during the preparation for  
27 and the aftermath of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee  
28 further prove the bravery and dedication of Pennsylvania's  
29 emergency response community during difficult times; therefore  
30 be it

1       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives continue to  
2 support the various emergency response agencies in this  
3 Commonwealth in the preparation for and recovery from  
4 emergencies that will test the safety and security of this  
5 Commonwealth; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives applaud the  
7 efforts of the men and women within Pennsylvania's emergency  
8 response community who continue to keep this Commonwealth safe  
9 and prepared for any and all emergencies.