
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 455 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY DEAN, MURT, COHEN, HENNESSEY, READSHAW, ROZZI,
THOMAS, BISHOP, VITALI, DRISCOLL, MILLARD, W. KELLER,
YOUNGBLOOD, VEREB, GIBBONS, HARHAI, SCHLOSSBERG, ROEBUCK,
D. COSTA, MARSICO, KOTIK, KILLION, JOZWIAK, O'NEILL, MAHONEY,
KINSEY, KIRKLAND, PASHINSKI, MAJOR, PAYNE, DONATUCCI,
SCHWEYER, M. DALEY, WARD, DeLUCA, LONGIETTI AND BRIGGS,
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the opening of the
2 Pennsylvania Turnpike.

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Turnpike was opened to the
4 traveling public on October 1, 1940, to become the first long-
5 distance limited-access highway in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission was established
7 by the act of May 21, 1937 (P.L.774, No.211) under Governor
8 George Howard Earle III to construct, finance, operate and
9 maintain the Pennsylvania Turnpike, a mission that continues to
10 this day; and

11 WHEREAS, The building of the Pennsylvania Turnpike was
12 financed by a loan of roughly \$41 million from the
13 Reconstruction Finance Corporation and grants of \$29 million
14 from the Works Progress Administration created through President
15 Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs; and

1 WHEREAS, More than 150 construction companies and 15,000
2 workers were contracted by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
3 to build the Pennsylvania Turnpike which opened after only two
4 years of construction; and

5 WHEREAS, The success of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, the
6 nation's first superhighway, encouraged other states such as
7 Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York and New Jersey to construct
8 their own toll roads; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Turnpike was a monument to national
10 pride and the spirit of motoring during the late years of the
11 Great Depression; and

12 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Turnpike served as an inspiration
13 for the authorization of the Interstate Highway System by
14 President Dwight Eisenhower in 1956; and

15 WHEREAS, The spirit of the Pennsylvania Turnpike is expressed
16 in the late 1970s country song "Pennsylvania Turnpike, I Love
17 You," composed by Vance Horton and recorded by Dick Todd and the
18 Appalachian Wildcats; and

19 WHEREAS, During its first full year of operation, the
20 Pennsylvania Turnpike consisted of 160 miles of roadway and
21 carried 2.4 million vehicles; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, the Pennsylvania Turnpike consists of 552
23 miles of roadway and carries more than 194 million vehicles
24 traveling an estimated 5.5 billion miles each year; and

25 WHEREAS, More than 1,800 people are employed in the daily
26 operation and maintenance of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and its
27 facilities; and

28 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Turnpike has greatly contributed to
29 economic growth in Pennsylvania by facilitating travel for 552
30 miles across this Commonwealth; and

1 WHEREAS, October 1, 2015, will mark the 75th anniversary of
2 this historic achievement of infrastructure, as well as 75 years
3 of unparalleled service to Pennsylvania Turnpike patrons;
4 therefore be it

5 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
6 join the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission in commemorating the
7 75th anniversary of the opening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.