

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 34

Session of 1995

INTRODUCED BY M. N. WRIGHT, MICOZZIE, GEIST, COLAFELLA, GAMBLE AND PERZEL, JANUARY 27, 1995

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEBRUARY 1, 1995

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF the House of
2 Representatives to conduct a study of the number of vehicles
3 being operated without insurance and/or registrations on
4 Pennsylvania's highways and the risk that is posed for the
5 citizens of this Commonwealth.

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6 WHEREAS, Highway safety and insurance policy rates for all
7 Pennsylvanians are seriously affected by large numbers of
8 uninsured motorists in Southeastern Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, A 1994 report by the Legislative Budget and Finance
10 Committee (LBFC) stated that, in over a two-year period from
11 March 1992 to March 1994, the Philadelphia police issued 57,000
12 tickets amounting to \$21.2 million to drivers who were unable to
13 provide proof of insurance when stopped for a moving violation;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The LBFC report further stated that 78% of these
16 fines, or \$16.5 million, remained unpaid as of April 1994; and

17 WHEREAS, Even when drivers pay the tickets, the fine for
18 driving without liability insurance is \$300 plus costs and fees,
19 which is far less than the cost of purchasing insurance; and

1 WHEREAS, The LBFC report recommends that the Department of
2 Transportation develop new regulations to ensure that insurance
3 companies provide the agency with timely status information on
4 policies; and

5 WHEREAS, The report places the percentage of registered but
6 uninsured vehicles in the Philadelphia area at 27% in 1992, much
7 higher than the Statewide average of 7%; and

8 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation estimates that the
9 lag time between a license plate suspension notice and the
10 notice to the local police of such a suspension is 28 days after
11 the suspension becomes effective if the license plate has not
12 been received by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles; and

13 WHEREAS, A rash of thefts of license plates and corners of
14 plates containing the Department of Transportation renewal
15 sticker have been reported in the Philadelphia region; therefore
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives, recognizing the
18 importance of maintaining safe highways and road conditions and
19 the need to protect the safety of motorists, direct the ~~Speaker~~ <—
20 ~~to appoint a bipartisan Select Committee on Investigating~~
21 ~~Uninsured and Unregistered Vehicles. The committee shall be~~
22 ~~composed of two members of the majority party and one member of~~
23 ~~the minority party of the Transportation Committee and two~~
24 ~~members of the majority party and one member of the minority~~
25 ~~party of the Insurance Committee, and one of the six members~~
26 ~~shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of~~
27 ~~Representatives as chairman; and be it further~~

28 ~~RESOLVED, That the committee shall conduct a study of the~~
29 ~~problem and the possible need for legislative action~~

30 TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE NUMBER OF <—

1 VEHICLES BEING OPERATED WITHOUT INSURANCE AND/OR REGISTRATIONS
2 ON PENNSYLVANIA'S HIGHWAYS AND THE RISK THAT IS POSED FOR THE
3 CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, AND THE POSSIBLE NEED FOR
4 LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the ~~committee~~ TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE may
6 hold hearings, take testimony and make its investigations at
7 such places as it deems necessary in this Commonwealth. ~~Each~~

8 ~~member of the committee~~ THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TRANSPORTATION
9 COMMITTEE shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations
10 to witnesses appearing before the committee; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the ~~committee~~ TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE report
12 to the House of Representatives on its activities, findings and
13 recommendations in six months and shall issue interim reports to
14 the House of Representatives as the committee deems necessary.