

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2008 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY FLECK, BEAR, BEYER, BOBACK, CAPPELLI, CONKLIN,
DENLINGER, J. EVANS, FAIRCHILD, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE,
HENNESSEY, HESS, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, MOYER, O'NEILL,
PEIFER, PHILLIPS, QUINN, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STERN,
R. STEVENSON, THOMAS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, KULA AND
HARHART, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

AN ACT

1 Designating the Johnstown Traction Company's Car Number 355 as
2 the official State trolley of the Commonwealth.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) At its peak in 1918, trolley transportation was the
5 fifth largest industry in the United States. Although its era
6 may appear to be over, the trolley has come full circle in
7 many respects. Today trolleys still operate in several major
8 cities in America. Heritage trolley lines, using trolleys
9 patterned like older cars, have been built and now operate in
10 some cities. In addition, several cities, which had trolleys
11 but abandoned their systems years ago, are now building new
12 systems.

13 (2) Johnstown Traction Company's Car Number 355 was
14 built by St. Louis Car Company in 1925 as part of an order
15 for five single-ended cars for the Johnstown Traction
16 Company. Following several years of service, Johnstown

1 Traction Company found a greater need for double-ended cars.
2 According, Car 355 of the 1925 order was modified in the
3 company shops for double-ended operation.

4 (3) Car 355 was the latest trolley to enter the Rockhill
5 Trolley Museum in Rockhill Furnace, Huntingdon County,
6 Pennsylvania. This trolley operated in Johnstown until 1960
7 and has undergone a restoration totaling over \$300,000 and
8 represents the typical 1920s era trolley found in many cities
9 and towns.

10 (4) Car 355 is the most completely restored car at the
11 Rockhill Trolley Museum. Few cars at any museum have ever
12 been rebuilt to the extent of Car 355. Restoration of Car 355
13 dramatically changed with the receipt of a Federal
14 Transportation Enhancement grant for much of the remaining
15 restoration work in 2000. The project was awarded to Lyons
16 Industries in Ebensburg, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

17 (5) Car 355 helps fulfill the Rockhill Trolley Museum's
18 educational mission through the remarkable story it tells to
19 visitors. The car represents the apex, decline and rebirth of
20 trolley cars in Pennsylvania.

21 (6) Car 355 was one of a handful of older cars still
22 available for service on the last day of streetcar service in
23 Johnstown on June 11, 1960. Today it is one of only two cars
24 that remain of those that operated in Johnstown on the last
25 day of service.

26 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
27 hereby enacts as follows:

28 Section 1. Official State trolley.

29 The Johnstown Traction Company's Car Number 355 is hereby
30 selected, designated and adopted as the official State trolley

1 of the Commonwealth.

2 Section 2. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.