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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 6

Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, BAKER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA,  
TARTAGLIONE, WARD AND YAW, JANUARY 23, 2017

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
JANUARY 23, 2017

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a special bipartisan, bicameral legislative  
2 commission to recommend improvements to the delivery of  
3 emergency services in this Commonwealth and develop and  
4 promote legislation in furtherance of its recommendations.

5 WHEREAS, The citizens of this Commonwealth benefit daily from  
6 the services, knowledge and skills of municipal emergency  
7 service providers and volunteer emergency service providers who  
8 routinely place the safety and well-being of others over their  
9 own; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the delivery of emergency  
11 services in this Commonwealth, particularly through the use of  
12 volunteer fire companies and volunteer emergency services,  
13 effectively saves the people of this Commonwealth billions of  
14 dollars and countless lives every year; and

15 WHEREAS, The emergency services in this Commonwealth are  
16 being tasked to provide even greater levels of service with very  
17 limited resources; and

18 WHEREAS, On September 29, 2002, the Pennsylvania Emergency

1 Management Agency, in consultation with the Fire and Emergency  
2 Services Task Force, presented "A Study of Volunteer Fire and  
3 Emergency Medical Services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,"  
4 to the General Assembly in accordance with the act of June 29,  
5 2002 (P.L.559, No.89), which made recommendations on various  
6 long-term initiatives to improve the delivery of emergency  
7 services in this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, On November 30, 2004, a special commission  
9 established in Senate Resolution No. 60 (2003) issued its report  
10 along with 23 recommendations to provide direct and indirect  
11 assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of  
12 emergency services in this Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, In September 2013, the Legislative Budget and  
14 Finance Commission along with the Joint State Government  
15 Commission issued a performance audit of the Emergency Medical  
16 Services Operating Fund pursuant to House Resolution No. 315  
17 (2012); and

18 WHEREAS, These reports took into consideration every major  
19 study of fire and emergency services in this Commonwealth over  
20 the prior 40 years and updated those findings to better reflect  
21 the current needs of our emergency services; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
23 General Assembly establish a special bipartisan, bicameral  
24 legislative commission to recommend improvements to the delivery  
25 of emergency services in this Commonwealth and develop and  
26 promote legislation in furtherance of its recommendations; and  
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following  
29 members:

30 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the

1 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the  
2 Senate or designees.

3 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
4 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the  
5 the House of Representatives or designees.

6 (3) The two co-chairs of the Firefighter and Emergency  
7 Services Caucus in the Senate or designees.

8 (4) The two co-chairs of the Firefighter and Emergency  
9 Services Caucus in the House of Representatives or designees.

10 (5) The State Fire Commissioner or a designee.

11 (6) The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical  
12 Services of the Department of Health.

13 (7) The president of the County Commissioners  
14 Association of Pennsylvania or a designee.

15 (8) The president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League  
16 or a designee.

17 (9) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association  
18 of Boroughs or a designee.

19 (10) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association  
20 of Township Commissioners or a designee.

21 (11) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association  
22 of Township Supervisors or a designee.

23 (12) The president of the Pennsylvania Council of  
24 Governments or a designee.

25 (13) The president of the Pennsylvania Fire and  
26 Emergency Services Institute or a designee.

27 (14) The president of the Firemen's Association of the  
28 State of Pennsylvania or a designee.

29 (15) Four members of a county firemen's association, one  
30 each from a county in the west, central, east and southeast

1 regions of this Commonwealth.

2 (16) The president of the Pennsylvania Professional  
3 Firefighters Association or a designee.

4 (17) The president of the Pennsylvania Career Fire  
5 Chiefs Association.

6 (18) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of  
7 Hazardous Materials Technicians.

8 (19) Two fire chiefs of volunteer fire companies in  
9 Pennsylvania, one of whom shall be selected by the President  
10 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected  
11 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 (20) Two fire chiefs of municipal fire companies in  
13 Pennsylvania, one of whom shall be selected by the President  
14 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected  
15 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

16 (21) The president of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health  
17 Services Council or a designee.

18 (22) The president of the Ambulance Association of  
19 Pennsylvania or a designee.

20 (23) Seven fire or emergency medical services members at  
21 large;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the commission elect a chair from its  
24 membership; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop and recommend  
26 legislation to improve the delivery of emergency services; and  
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings, take  
29 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems  
30 necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Commission  
2 provide staff support and assist with the final report; and be  
3 it further

4       RESOLVED, That the commission make a final report of all  
5 legislative recommendations by June 30, 2018; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the members of the commission shall serve  
7 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary  
8 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their  
9 duties; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission  
11 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of  
12 Representatives. The approval of the chairperson and minority  
13 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness  
14 Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority  
15 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness  
16 Committee of the House of Representatives, by action of a  
17 majority of members of the committees, shall be required to  
18 preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission which will  
19 entail the expenditure of State funds and shall also be required  
20 to approve all expenditures, including expense reimbursement  
21 requests of commission members, prior to payment.