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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 137 Session of  
1995

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INTRODUCED BY HALUSKA, REBER, GODSHALL, MICHLOVIC, DeWEESE,  
READSHAW, FICHTER, LYNCH, BAKER, OLASZ, M. N. WRIGHT, MERRY,  
ARGALL, RUBLEY, STABACK, BELARDI, COY, CARONE, VAN HORNE,  
L. I. COHEN, GEIST, SHANER, MELIO, WALKO, CAPPABIANCA, ITKIN,  
HORSEY, JAROLIN, TRELLO, YEWCIC, HERMAN, DeLUCA, MIHALICH,  
JOSEPHS AND STERN, MAY 3, 1995

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 3, 1995

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and  
2 the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee jointly to  
3 study, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the  
4 establishment of overnight facilities and associated  
5 amenities on Commonwealth-owned lands.

6 WHEREAS, Tourism is this Commonwealth's number two industry,  
7 employing over 300,000 people and generating over \$17 billion in  
8 direct and indirect traveler spending; and

9 WHEREAS, A large percentage of this job creation and  
10 traveler spending has been centered in urban and suburban  
11 regions of this Commonwealth to the exclusion of rural  
12 communities, many of which possess abundant natural resources,  
13 including game lands, forest lands and State parks; and

14 WHEREAS, Thirty-seven million travelers visit this  
15 Commonwealth's State parks annually, providing the potential for  
16 significant job creation and millions of dollars in new rural  
17 spending; and

1       WHEREAS, Many of our rural communities are unable to benefit  
2 significantly from these Commonwealth-owned properties due to a  
3 lack of lodging and other facilities necessary for overnight  
4 stays; and

5       WHEREAS, As a direct result of this lack of infrastructure,  
6 95% of the visitors to Pennsylvania's State parks are day  
7 trippers, a fact which significantly lessens the economic impact  
8 that these travelers have on local economies; and

9       WHEREAS, Studies have indicated that a large percentage of  
10 park visitors would stay overnight if provided the opportunity;  
11 and

12       WHEREAS, This is especially true of senior citizens,  
13 individuals who are disabled, urban residents and working  
14 couples; and

15       WHEREAS, Many of our bordering states and the Federal  
16 Government have recognized the potential for economic  
17 development and job creation by creating such facilities and  
18 have permitted limited development of certain state and national  
19 parks; and

20       WHEREAS, Extended-stay facilities would afford visitors a  
21 special opportunity to learn about the historical and ecological  
22 development of this Commonwealth, to study the rare and  
23 endangered species unique to the area and to study the impact of  
24 human activities on the diverse environments and ecosystems of  
25 this Commonwealth; and

26       WHEREAS, Many of the current visitors to the State parks and  
27 forests are not camping or tenting enthusiasts; and

28       WHEREAS, These visitors could be afforded the opportunity to  
29 participate in natural outdoor activities; and

30       WHEREAS, Other states have found that these facilities can

1 be provided in harmony with the recreational, educational and  
2 environmental preservation missions of government while  
3 affording the opportunity for reasonable and responsible tourism  
4 development without degradation of the state's unique natural  
5 resources; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
7 Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and the  
8 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee jointly to study,  
9 evaluate and make recommendations regarding the establishment of  
10 overnight facilities and associated amenities on Commonwealth-  
11 owned lands and the impact of the same on tourism, the economy  
12 and the environment; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the committees may conduct studies, hold  
14 hearings and take testimony at such places, within and without  
15 this Commonwealth, as the committees deem necessary. Each member  
16 of the committees shall have power to administer oaths and  
17 affirmations to witnesses appearing before the committees; and  
18 be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the expenses incurred by the committees in  
20 carrying out their responsibilities, including, but not limited  
21 to, per diem and travel expenses incurred by the members and  
22 regular staff, stenographic charges and other incidental  
23 expenses, be paid from appropriate accounts under control of the  
24 Chief Clerk; and be it further

25       RESOLVED, That the Tourism and Recreational Development  
26 Committee and the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee  
27 shall make a joint report to the House of Representatives on  
28 their activities, findings and recommendations on or before  
29 October 1, 1996, and shall issue interim reports to the House of  
30 Representatives as the committees may deem necessary.