

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BELLMON, GALLAGHER, HOHENSTEIN, E. NELSON, WEBSTER AND KHAN, DECEMBER 8, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, DECEMBER 8, 2023

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION



1 Extending in whole the disaster emergency declared on June 12,
2 2023, and extended in whole by the General Assembly until
3 November 1, 2023, by Senate Resolution No. 136, and further
4 extended in whole by the General Assembly for an additional
5 120 calendar days from November 1, 2023, by House Resolution
6 No. 197, in response to the collapse of the northbound bridge
7 and severe compromise of the southbound bridge on Interstate
8 95 in the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County.

9 WHEREAS, On June 12, 2023, the Governor issued a proclamation
10 declaring a disaster emergency in response to the collapse of
11 the northbound bridge and severe compromise of the southbound
12 bridge on Interstate 95 in the City of Philadelphia,
13 Philadelphia County; and

14 WHEREAS, On June 11, 2023, a tanker truck fire erupted
15 underneath a northbound and southbound bridge on Interstate 95
16 in the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County; and

17 WHEREAS, The fire led to the collapse of the northbound
18 bridge and severe compromise of the southbound bridge; and

19 WHEREAS, The City of Philadelphia and surrounding political
20 subdivisions continue to experience adverse impacts, including

1 ongoing traffic disruption in and around the scene of the
2 incident; and

3 WHEREAS, These adverse impacts are of such magnitude and
4 severity as to render essential the Commonwealth's
5 supplementation of county and municipal efforts and resources
6 and the activation of all applicable State, county and municipal
7 emergency response plans; and

8 WHEREAS, Recovery and rebuilding efforts in response to the
9 damage caused by the incident remain ongoing; and

10 WHEREAS, On June 30, 2023, the Senate and the House of
11 Representatives both adopted Senate Resolution No. 136 which
12 extended in whole the declaration of disaster emergency until
13 November 1, 2023; and

14 WHEREAS, On September 27, 2023, the House of Representatives
15 adopted House Resolution No. 197, which was subsequently adopted
16 by the Senate on October 23, 2023, extending in whole the
17 declaration of disaster emergency for an additional 120 calendar
18 days from November 1, 2023; and

19 WHEREAS, Extending the disaster emergency declaration will
20 ensure that the Commonwealth is eligible to receive emergency
21 relief funding from the Federal Government to assist the
22 Commonwealth recovery and rebuilding activities related to the
23 collapse of the northbound bridge and severe compromise of the
24 southbound bridge on Interstate 95; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly,
26 in accordance with section 20(c) of Article IV of the
27 Constitution of Pennsylvania, further extend in whole the
28 disaster emergency declared on June 12, 2023, and extended in
29 whole until November 1, 2023, by Senate Resolution No. 136, and
30 further extended by 120 calendar days from November 1, 2023, by

1 House Resolution No. 197, for an additional 90 calendar days
2 from February 29, 2024, in response to the collapse of the
3 northbound bridge and severe compromise of the southbound bridge
4 on Interstate 95 in the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia
5 County, except as terminated or extended, in whole or in part,
6 by the General Assembly; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That, upon adoption of this concurrent resolution
8 by both chambers of the General Assembly, the Secretary of the
9 Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives be
10 directed to notify the Governor of the General Assembly's
11 action; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief
13 Clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to transmit
14 this concurrent resolution to the Legislative Reference Bureau
15 for publication in the next available issue of the Pennsylvania
16 Bulletin as specified under 45 Pa.C.S. § 725(a)(4).