

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 137 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY SCHWARTZ, WAGNER, MELLOW, EARLL, LOGAN, KUKOVICH,
MUSTO, COSTA, CONTI, ORIE, TARTAGLIONE, STOUT, MOWERY,
RAFFERTY, O'PAKE, KITCHEN AND M. WHITE, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the advancement of an interoperability system for first
2 responders and Federal and State agencies.

3 WHEREAS, Due to the events of September 11, 2001, it is clear
4 that terrorist attacks may occur in any town or neighborhood of
5 this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has allocated \$85
7 million to Pennsylvania over the last four years to train and
8 equip our first responders; and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has appropriated large sums to
10 fund homeland security initiatives; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
12 has provided guidance to communities in the development and
13 coordination of an interoperability communication system, which
14 includes an 800 megahertz radio system and the voice and data
15 satellite communication systems PaSTAR (the Pennsylvania
16 Statewide Telecommunications and Alerting System) and SEVAN (the
17 Satellite Emergency Voice Alerting Network); and

1 WHEREAS, In order to create a regional network of seamless
2 communication, many townships and boroughs have updated their
3 local emergency response plans to respond to terrorist acts and
4 have established mutual aid agreements with neighboring
5 municipalities; and

6 WHEREAS, First responders such as local police and fire
7 departments can utilize these frequencies in coordination with
8 Federal and State law enforcement agencies in the event of a
9 terrorist attack; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania acknowledge that
11 Congress has provided funding for emergency preparedness
12 initiatives; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania urge Congress to
14 continue to provide the necessary funding for further
15 initiatives, including increased interoperability between
16 Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies and first
17 responders; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
19 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
20 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.