

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 184

Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY RENWICK, L. E. SMITH AND SPENCER,
NOVEMBER 19, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, NOVEMBER 20, 1975

In the House of Representatives, November 19, 1975

1 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is being asked to enact
2 sharp increases in the taxes and fees paid by the Pennsylvania
3 highway users to halt the deterioration of the secondary road
4 system, and to restore it to a condition of good repair; and

5 WHEREAS, An unusual mixture of voices have either suggested,
6 or demanded that major change be made in the Pennsylvania
7 Department of Transportation management system prior to, or in
8 conjunction with, General Assembly approval of major tax
9 increases; and

10 WHEREAS, These voices calling for change include average
11 highway users, rank and file members of the Legislature, leaders
12 of both parties in the House, and the Secretary of the
13 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation; and

14 WHEREAS, Advocates of immediate taxation without prior change
15 or condition are in agreement that fundamental change is needed,
16 but seem to fear that the call for change before taxation will
17 only produce delay in funding while ultimately tolerating the

1 "status quo"; and

2 WHEREAS, This fear held by the advocates of "tax-now-fight-
3 for-change-later" is founded in the past political tolerance of
4 an inadequate, wasteful system which accommodates the desire for
5 comfort by bureaucracy as well as the old-style needs of highway
6 politics; and

7 WHEREAS, We supporters of taking the road of binding
8 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation management reform to
9 consideration of imposing higher taxes on citizens cannot
10 succeed without the real support of those who advocate
11 unqualified tax increases to save the highway system, have a
12 responsibility to express our firm commitment to take the hard
13 road of reform along with the passage of higher taxes and fees;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House Majority Leader and the House
16 Minority Leader present to the House on Monday, November 24, for
17 consideration, a resolution which would irrevocably commit this
18 House to use its full resources, and those of the independent
19 sector, to present a legislative program of Pennsylvania
20 Department of Transportation reform to be voted into law as soon
21 as possible, and whose passage by the House will be accompanied
22 by consideration of bills to increase taxes and fees; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
25 the State Senate for its information and evaluation so that they
26 will fully understand the concern of the House with the need to
27 permanently alter the many-fathered and many faulted
28 Pennsylvania Department of Transportation system as a small but
29 necessary condition to be accomplished before we permanently
30 raise taxes upon road users by one-third.