

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 910

Session of
1983

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, McHALE, RYBAK, KOWALYSHYN, AFFLERBACH,
ZWIKL, HUTCHINSON, SEMMEL, GRUPPO, D. W. SNYDER, LINTON,
DONATUCCI, EVANS, O'DONNELL, MANDERINO AND IRVIS, MAY 3, 1983

AS RE-REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 14, 1984

AN ACT

1 Creating a Joint Legislative Committee to facilitate a regional
2 light rail transit system in the Lehigh Valley; providing for
3 a feasibility study; ~~and making an appropriation.~~ <—

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Establishment of committee.

7 A Joint Legislative Committee of the General Assembly is
8 hereby created for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study
9 of a proposed Lehigh Valley Regional Light Rail Transit System.

10 Section 2. Appointment and composition.

11 The committee shall be comprised of six members. Three
12 members of the House of Representatives, two from the majority
13 party and one from the minority party, shall be appointed by the
14 Speaker of the House of Representatives. Three members of the
15 Senate, two from the majority party and one from the minority
16 party, shall be appointed by the President pro tempore of the
17 Senate.

1 Section 3. Organizational meeting.

2 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President
3 pro tempore of the Senate shall make their respective
4 appointments within 30 days of the effective date of this act.
5 The Speaker and President pro tempore shall jointly issue a call
6 for the organizational meeting of the committee within 30 days
7 from the date of the last appointment.

8 Section 4. Chairman and officers.

9 At the organizational meeting the committee shall elect a
10 chairman and vice chairman and any other officers it deems
11 necessary.

12 Section 5. Quorum and records.

13 A majority of the existing membership of the committee shall
14 constitute a quorum. A majority of those committee members
15 present and voting at meetings shall constitute a majority
16 necessary to pass motions. Records shall be kept of all votes
17 taken at formal meetings and the records shall be available for
18 public inspection.

19 Section 6. Transit system study.

20 Within 60 days of the organizational meeting of the Joint
21 Legislative Committee, the committee shall issue a request for
22 proposals for a study of the feasibility of the establishment
23 and operation of a Lehigh Valley Regional Light Rail Transit
24 System that would provide light rail transit service linking the
25 cities of Easton, Bethlehem and Allentown in the counties of
26 Northampton and Lehigh. This study shall include, but not be
27 limited to, the advantages of easing traffic congestion by the
28 utilization of light rail transportation; the lessening of
29 America's reliance on imported oil; the abatement of air, water
30 and noise pollution; the economic benefit to the region and its

1 taxpayers; the continued utilization of already existing track
2 and facilities; and the lowering of the rate of death and injury
3 to persons and property when mass transportation is utilized as
4 an alternative to highway use.

5 Section 7. Results of study.

6 The findings and recommendations contained in the feasibility
7 study shall be reported to the Joint Legislative Committee
8 within six months of the proposal's acceptance.

9 Section 8. Report to General Assembly.

10 The committee shall make a report of its findings to the
11 General Assembly together with any proposed legislation as soon
12 as practicable.

13 ~~Section 9. Appropriation.~~

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14 ~~The sum of \$150,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary,~~
15 ~~is hereby appropriated to the Joint Legislative Committee to~~
16 ~~carry out this act.~~

17 Section ~~10~~ 9. Effective date.

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18 This act shall take effect immediately.