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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

**No. 182**

Session of  
1985

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INTRODUCED BY SAURMAN, HALUSKA, FOX, ARGALL, J. L. WRIGHT,  
COHEN, TIGUE, DEAL, G. M. SNYDER, FARGO, FISCHER, DISTLER,  
HERMAN, SEMMEL, STABACK AND NAHILL, OCTOBER 22, 1985

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, OCTOBER 23, 1985

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the House Mines and Energy Management Committee to  
2 investigate the feasibility of abolishing the Department of  
3 Environmental Resources and establishing a Bureau of Land,  
4 Air and Water Management, a Bureau of Waste Management, and a  
5 Bureau of Mines, Minerals and Resource Management.

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Environmental Resources, formerly  
7 the Department of Forests and Waters and Mines and Mineral  
8 Industries, was created by Act No. 275 of 1970; and

9 WHEREAS, The department has the responsibility to administer  
10 and regulate programs in a variety of subject areas which are  
11 constantly expanding, in and of themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, The ability of the department to administer and  
13 regulate such a large number of diverse program areas has become  
14 questionable and subject to extreme concern by industry,  
15 government officials and consumers as well; and

16 WHEREAS, The credibility of the department has declined, in  
17 part, due to the incapability of departmental personnel to  
18 respond efficiently and accurately to concerns as a result of  
19 their being overburdened with a greater and greater amount of

1 responsibility; therefore be it

2       RESOLVED, That the House Mines and Energy Management  
3 Committee examine the ability of the department to effectively  
4 and efficiently carry out the duties and responsibilities  
5 currently delegated to it; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the committee thoroughly investigate the  
7 feasibility of abolishing the department, and in its place,  
8 establishing a Bureau of Land, Air and Water Management, a  
9 Bureau of Waste Management, and a Bureau of Mine, Minerals and  
10 Resource Management; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the committee may hold hearings, take  
12 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems  
13 necessary in this Commonwealth. It may issue subpoenas under the  
14 hand and seal of its chairman commanding any person to appear  
15 before the committee and to answer questions touching matters  
16 properly being inquired into by the committee and to produce  
17 such books, papers, records and documents as the committee deems  
18 necessary. The subpoenas may be served upon any person and shall  
19 have the same effect as subpoenas issued out of the courts of  
20 this Commonwealth. Any person who willfully neglects or refuses  
21 to testify before the committee or to produce any books, papers,  
22 records or documents shall be subject to the penalties provided  
23 by the laws of this Commonwealth in such case. Each member of  
24 the committee shall have power to administer oaths and  
25 affirmations to witnesses appearing before the committee; and be  
26 it further

27       RESOLVED, That the committee make a report of its  
28 investigation to the House of Representatives within six months.