

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 272 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY VITALI, OCTOBER 7, 1997

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 7, 1997

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 18, 1997, as the 25th Anniversary of the
2 Clean Water Act.

3 WHEREAS, Natural wetlands are an important and vanishing
4 resource and supply innumerable functions and services to
5 communities across the country; and

6 WHEREAS, Wetlands and clean water are critical to birds, fish
7 and other wildlife, open spaces and recreation opportunities;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Wetlands play an essential economic role, providing
10 protection from flooding and storm damage, maintaining healthy
11 fisheries and ensuring sustainable ecotourism; and

12 WHEREAS, Wetlands are critical to the regime of entire
13 watersheds, including purifying water systems and buffering from
14 streamside erosion; and

15 WHEREAS, Wetlands are being lost at the rate of approximately
16 117,000 acres a year nationally and 1,200 acres a year annually
17 in Pennsylvania; and

1 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth supports the protection of wetlands
2 and avoidance of their destruction, and when damage is
3 unavoidable, supports minimization and mitigation locally for
4 their loss, and restoration of wetlands is growing within this
5 Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Ground and surface water supplies are major sources
7 of drinking water in Pennsylvania, and protection of the quality
8 of these sources helps to protect public health while also
9 reducing the cost of treatment required by drinking water
10 systems; and

11 WHEREAS, Improvements in water quality in major Pennsylvania
12 rivers since the passage of the Clean Water Act have helped to
13 stimulate increased recreational and commercial use of the
14 waterways and of waterfront property, contributing to millions
15 of dollars to the economic health of this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Continued investment in water pollution control
17 efforts helps create jobs, with an estimated 22,400 jobs in
18 wastewater equipment manufacturing and construction generated
19 for every billion dollars spent on clean water infrastructure;
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October
22 18, 1997, as the 25th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, and
23 the important role it has played in the preservation of
24 wetlands, the protection of our water resources and the economy
25 of this Commonwealth.