

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 622 Session of  
2000

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INTRODUCED BY McILHINNEY, OCTOBER 25, 2000

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
OCTOBER 25, 2000

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Congress of the United States to enact  
2 legislation to prohibit the use of methyl tertiary butyl  
3 ether (MTBE) as an additive to gasoline.

4 WHEREAS, Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) is a volatile  
5 organic compound derived from natural gas that is added to  
6 gasoline either seasonally or year-round in many parts of the  
7 United States to increase the octane level and to reduce carbon  
8 monoxide and ozone levels in the air; and

9 WHEREAS, MTBE is found in gasoline and other petroleum  
10 products commonly stored in underground storage tanks and is  
11 typically added to reformulated gasoline, oxygenated fuel and  
12 premium grades of unleaded gasoline; and

13 WHEREAS, Health complaints related to MTBE in the air were  
14 first reported in Alaska in November 1992 when about 200  
15 Fairbanks residents reported problems such as headaches,  
16 dizziness, eye irritation, burning of the nose and throat,  
17 disorientation and nausea; and

18 WHEREAS, Similar health complaints have been registered in

1 Anchorage, Alaska, Missoula, Montana, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and  
2 New Jersey; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently the United States Environmental Protection  
4 Agency (EPA) tentatively classifies MTBE as a possible human  
5 carcinogen; and

6 WHEREAS, MTBE is on the EPA's Drinking Water Priority List,  
7 which means that it is a possible candidate for future  
8 regulation; and

9 WHEREAS, There is widespread concern about the health risks  
10 presented by the continued use of MTBE in gasoline; therefore be  
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
13 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the  
14 United States to enact legislation to prohibit the use of methyl  
15 tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) as an additive to gasoline.