

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 127 Session of  
2003

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INTRODUCED BY LYNCH, MARCH 6, 2003

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 6, 2003

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Providing for the establishment of a task force to evaluate and  
2 make recommendations regarding the economic development  
3 potential of the State forestry system.

4 WHEREAS, There are approximately 2.1 million acres of forest  
5 land owned by the Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, State forest lands are managed by the Department of  
7 Conservation and Natural Resources, which seeks to ensure the  
8 long-term health, viability and productivity of the  
9 Commonwealth's forests, conserve native wild plants and provide  
10 for recreational opportunities; and

11 WHEREAS, There are 116 State parks covering roughly 283,000  
12 acres; and

13 WHEREAS, State park lands are managed by the Department of  
14 Conservation and Natural Resources, which seeks to provide  
15 opportunities for enjoying healthful outdoor recreation as well  
16 as outdoor classrooms for environmental education; and

17 WHEREAS, There has been an increase in the purchase of  
18 private lands by the Commonwealth for use as State forest lands

1 and State park lands; and

2 WHEREAS, Questions have arisen concerning the management of  
3 these lands and the benefit of the current management plans to  
4 the citizens of this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, Recommendations have been made by the previous task  
6 force established in House Resolution No. 49 of 2001 Session in  
7 attempts to venture answers to questions at hand regarding the  
8 management of these lands; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
10 State Government Commission to establish a task force to further  
11 define and make recommendations on the economic development  
12 potential within the State forestry system; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives create a task  
14 force to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the  
15 economic development potential of the State forestry system; and  
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the task force consist of five members, three  
18 from the majority party and two from the minority party; and be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That two of the three members from the majority  
21 party be appointed from the Appropriations Committee by the  
22 chairman of that committee; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That one of the two members from the minority party  
24 be appointed from the Appropriations Committee by the minority  
25 chairman of that committee; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That one of the three members from the majority  
27 party be appointed from the Environmental Resources and Energy  
28 Committee by the chairman of that committee; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That one of the two members from the minority party  
30 be appointed from the Tourism and Recreational Development

1 Committee by the minority chairman of that committee; and be it  
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
4 appoint the chairman of the task force from among its members;  
5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Minority Leader of the House of  
7 Representatives appoint the minority chairman of the task force  
8 from among its members; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the task force may hold hearings, take  
10 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems  
11 necessary and that each member of the task force shall have the  
12 power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses  
13 appearing before the task force; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of  
15 Representatives be authorized to pay for all necessary,  
16 appropriate and proper expenses incurred by the task force; and  
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the task force report its findings and  
19 recommendations to the House of Representatives no later than  
20 June 30, 2004.