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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2008 Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY FLECK, BEAR, BEYER, BOBACK, CAPPELLI, CONKLIN,  
DENLINGER, J. EVANS, FAIRCHILD, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE,  
HENNESSEY, HESS, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MILLARD, MOYER, O'NEILL,  
PEIFER, PHILLIPS, QUINN, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, STERN,  
R. STEVENSON, THOMAS, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, KULA AND  
HARHART, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

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AN ACT

1 Designating the Johnstown Traction Company's Car Number 355 as  
2 the official State trolley of the Commonwealth.

3 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

4 (1) At its peak in 1918, trolley transportation was the  
5 fifth largest industry in the United States. Although its era  
6 may appear to be over, the trolley has come full circle in  
7 many respects. Today trolleys still operate in several major  
8 cities in America. Heritage trolley lines, using trolleys  
9 patterned like older cars, have been built and now operate in  
10 some cities. In addition, several cities, which had trolleys  
11 but abandoned their systems years ago, are now building new  
12 systems.

13 (2) Johnstown Traction Company's Car Number 355 was  
14 built by St. Louis Car Company in 1925 as part of an order  
15 for five single-ended cars for the Johnstown Traction  
16 Company. Following several years of service, Johnstown

1 Traction Company found a greater need for double-ended cars.  
2 According, Car 355 of the 1925 order was modified in the  
3 company shops for double-ended operation.

4 (3) Car 355 was the latest trolley to enter the Rockhill  
5 Trolley Museum in Rockhill Furnace, Huntingdon County,  
6 Pennsylvania. This trolley operated in Johnstown until 1960  
7 and has undergone a restoration totaling over \$300,000 and  
8 represents the typical 1920s era trolley found in many cities  
9 and towns.

10 (4) Car 355 is the most completely restored car at the  
11 Rockhill Trolley Museum. Few cars at any museum have ever  
12 been rebuilt to the extent of Car 355. Restoration of Car 355  
13 dramatically changed with the receipt of a Federal  
14 Transportation Enhancement grant for much of the remaining  
15 restoration work in 2000. The project was awarded to Lyons  
16 Industries in Ebensburg, Cambria County, Pennsylvania.

17 (5) Car 355 helps fulfill the Rockhill Trolley Museum's  
18 educational mission through the remarkable story it tells to  
19 visitors. The car represents the apex, decline and rebirth of  
20 trolley cars in Pennsylvania.

21 (6) Car 355 was one of a handful of older cars still  
22 available for service on the last day of streetcar service in  
23 Johnstown on June 11, 1960. Today it is one of only two cars  
24 that remain of those that operated in Johnstown on the last  
25 day of service.

26 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
27 hereby enacts as follows:

28 Section 1. Official State trolley.

29 The Johnstown Traction Company's Car Number 355 is hereby  
30 selected, designated and adopted as the official State trolley

1 of the Commonwealth.

2 Section 2. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.