

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 164 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY HALUSKA, TANGRETTI, NAILOR, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER,
CLYMER, HANNA, HERSHEY, JAMES, KILLION, KOTIK, LONGIETTI,
MILLARD, PAYNE, PETRARCA, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAINATO,
SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, R. STEVENSON, THOMAS AND WALKO,
MARCH 23, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
MARCH 23, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Tourism and Recreational Development Committee to
2 study, evaluate and make recommendations regarding the
3 establishment of overnight facilities and associated
4 amenities on Commonwealth-owned lands.

5 WHEREAS, Tourism is this Commonwealth's number two industry,
6 supporting nearly 600,000 jobs and generating more than \$25
7 billion per year in direct and indirect traveler spending; and

8 WHEREAS, A large percentage of this job creation and traveler
9 spending has been centered in urban and suburban regions of this
10 Commonwealth to the exclusion of rural communities, many of
11 which possess abundant natural resources, including forest lands
12 and State parks; and

13 WHEREAS, Thirty-seven million travelers visit this
14 Commonwealth's State parks annually, providing the potential for
15 significant job creation and millions of dollars in new rural
16 spending; and

17 WHEREAS, Many of the current visitors to the State parks and

1 forests are not camping or tenting enthusiasts; and

2 WHEREAS, Many of our rural communities are unable to benefit
3 significantly from these Commonwealth-owned properties due to a
4 lack of lodging and other facilities necessary for overnight
5 stays; and

6 WHEREAS, As a direct result of this lack of infrastructure,
7 most visitors to Pennsylvania's State parks are day-trippers, a
8 fact which significantly lessens the economic impact of these
9 travelers on local economies; and

10 WHEREAS, Studies have indicated that a large percentage of
11 park visitors would stay overnight if provided the opportunity;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, This is especially true of senior citizens,
14 individuals with disabilities, urban residents and working
15 couples; and

16 WHEREAS, Many of our bordering states and the Federal
17 Government have recognized the potential for economic
18 development and job creation by creating such facilities and
19 have permitted limited development of certain state and national
20 parks; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
22 Tourism and Recreational Development Committee to study,
23 evaluate and make recommendations regarding the establishment of
24 overnight facilities and associated amenities on Commonwealth-
25 owned lands and the impact of the same on tourism and the
26 economy; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the committee review the current status of
28 development in and around State park and forest land and the
29 economic impact such development may or may not cause; and be it
30 further

1 RESOLVED, That the committee study areas in proximity to
2 State parks and forests and make recommendations as to whether
3 any need for future development of overnight hospitality
4 facilities can best be accommodated by private development
5 offsite or onsite and that the study include other states which
6 have programs to prohibit, restrict, limit or permit private
7 development of park and forest lands; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the committee may conduct studies, hold
9 hearings and take testimony at such places as the committee
10 deems necessary and that each member of the committee shall have
11 power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses
12 appearing before the committee; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the expenses incurred by the committee in
14 carrying out its responsibilities, including, but not limited
15 to, per diem and travel expenses incurred by the members and
16 regular staff, stenographic charges and other incidental
17 expenses, be paid from appropriate accounts under control of the
18 Chief Clerk; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Tourism and Recreational Development
20 Committee make a report to the House of Representatives on its
21 activities, findings and recommendations on or before October 1,
22 2008, and issue interim reports to the House of Representatives
23 as the committee deems necessary.