

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 324 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY GIBBONS, BELFANTI, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE,
DONATUCCI, FABRIZIO, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY, HOUGHTON, JOHNSON,
JOSEPHS, MCGEEHAN, MCILVAINE SMITH, MELIO, MUNDY, M. O'BRIEN,
READSHAW, REICHLEY, SIPTROTH, SOLOBAY, SONNEY, STURLA,
VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 29, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY
29, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and
2 the Department of Environmental Protection to establish a
3 task force to study the feasibility of implementing a water
4 resource restoration sponsorship program.

5 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is increasingly
6 concerned with the restoration and preservation of Commonwealth
7 streams and wetlands; and

8 WHEREAS, A current lack in funding is deterring the
9 Commonwealth from readily addressing this important
10 environmental concern; and

11 WHEREAS, Ohio has established a program known as the Water
12 Resource Restoration Sponsor Program to permit communities to
13 provide funding toward stream and wetland restoration and
14 preservation projects in conjunction with improvements and
15 repairs to wastewater collection systems and treatment plants;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Any community that receives a loan for wastewater

1 treatment or other improvements and agrees to sponsor a water
2 resource restoration project receives a reduction in its loan
3 interest rate under the Ohio program; and

4 WHEREAS, The loan recipient receives an additional reduction
5 in its interest rate as an incentive; and

6 WHEREAS, The lower interest rate produces a net savings for
7 the loan recipient over what the original loan would have cost
8 to repay without the sponsorship; and

9 WHEREAS, Ohio's program has successfully provided more than
10 \$35 million to numerous restoration projects since its inception
11 in 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, Other states, including Washington, Michigan, Oregon
13 and Iowa, have established similar water restoration sponsorship
14 programs; and

15 WHEREAS, It is imperative that restoration and preservation
16 of streams and wetlands throughout this Commonwealth receive
17 adequate funding to further protect and conserve the environment
18 as a whole; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
20 Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority and the
21 Department of Environmental Protection to establish a task force
22 to study the feasibility of establishing a water resource
23 restoration sponsorship program in this Commonwealth; and be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That the task force be urged to present its
26 findings to the General Assembly.