

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 345 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY GILLESPIE, BARRAR, BEYER, CALTAGIRONE, CUTLER,
DONATUCCI, FAIRCHILD, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GROVE, HENNESSEY,
M. KELLER, LONGIETTI, MARSICO, MILLER, MOUL, MURT,
OBERLANDER, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, SAYLOR,
SIPTROTH, STERN, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH, WHITE AND YOUNGBLOOD,
JUNE 9, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JUNE 9, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review
2 the Commonwealth's sewage facilities management program
3 authorized under the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.

4 WHEREAS, It is important for the Commonwealth to have in
5 place a comprehensive program that guides the planning and
6 development of sewage facilities throughout this Commonwealth;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, A comprehensive sewage facilities planning,
9 oversight and enforcement program will ensure public health and
10 safety and a quality environment; and

11 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognized the need for a
12 comprehensive sewage facilities management program and
13 consequently enacted the act of January 24, 1966 (1965 P.L.1535,
14 No.537), known as the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act, and
15 more commonly referred to as Act 537; and

16 WHEREAS, Act 537 has provided for the overall planning,

1 development and placement of various sewage management
2 facilities; and

3 WHEREAS, Act 537 has been the vehicle through which existing
4 sources of water pollution are identified and mitigated and new
5 sources of water pollution are prevented; and

6 WHEREAS, Over time, technology and circumstances have
7 dramatically changed the manner in which sewage facilities are
8 planned for, deployed and managed, especially since the
9 enactment of Act 537; and

10 WHEREAS, A comprehensive review and evaluation of the
11 implementation of Act 537 has not been undertaken; and

12 WHEREAS, A review could lead to recommendations for cost-
13 savings opportunities to the Commonwealth, local governments and
14 citizens and opportunities to increase the public health, safety
15 and environmental protections associated with Act 537; therefore
16 be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
18 be directed to undertake a comprehensive review and evaluation
19 of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act and prepare a report
20 of its findings which shall, at a minimum:

21 (1) determine the overall effectiveness of the act, its
22 accompanying regulations, guidance documents and policy
23 statements, in achieving the goals of protecting public
24 health and safety, preventing and eliminating pollution of
25 the waters of this Commonwealth and promoting intermunicipal
26 cooperation in the planning, implementation and
27 administration of sewage facilities;

28 (2) identify opportunities to streamline and make more
29 cost-effective processes associated with administering the
30 act at the State and local levels;

1 (3) review the manner in which new onsite wastewater
2 treatment technologies are introduced into mainstream use
3 within this Commonwealth;

4 (4) review the process used to collect, account for and
5 disburse moneys received through fines and fees associated
6 with the program;

7 (5) identify the manner in which a high degree of
8 technical competency within local government administration
9 of the act is being facilitated by the Department of
10 Environmental Protection;

11 (6) evaluate the efficiency including the costs and
12 benefits associated with the overall training and
13 certification program for local sewage enforcement officers;
14 and

15 (7) review the effectiveness of all grant and
16 reimbursement programs associated with the act and its
17 accompanying regulations;

18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
20 make a report of its findings and recommendations to the House
21 of Representatives within one year of the adoption of this
22 resolution.