

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 70 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY HARHART, PICKETT, QUINN, REICHLEY, MAJOR,  
CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DAY, FLECK, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HAHN,  
KILLION, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MILLER, MYERS,  
O'NEILL, PEIFER, RAPP, READSHAW, SCAVELLO, STEVENSON, VEREB,  
VULAKOVICH AND SONNEY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Department of Transportation to conduct a study  
2 of the slate industry for the purpose of devising the best  
3 means of utilizing the slate waste by-product as a component  
4 in highway construction and civil engineering projects.

5 WHEREAS, Huge quantities of solid wastes are generated as a  
6 result of mining and mineral processing activities in this  
7 Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the years, the majority of these by-products  
9 have been disposed of in unsightly dumping areas which are  
10 aesthetically unattractive and often degrading to the  
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania slate industries produce enormous  
13 amounts of waste material from the quarrying, splitting and  
14 milling of slate; and

15 WHEREAS, The lack of disposal options and of markets for this  
16 material has resulted in the stockpiling of large quantities of  
17 slate waste; and

WHEREAS, The growing quantity of slate waste is a major concern for communities and governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, Additional efforts to recycle such wastes are needed, and existing stockpiles of slate waste throughout this Commonwealth should be remediated; and

WHEREAS, Slate waste, because of its similarity to conventional aggregates, represents a potentially useful source of material for a variety of applications where crushed rock is specified; and

WHEREAS, The highway construction industry has a long history of using recycled products for highway construction and civil engineering projects and can effectively use large quantities of diverse materials; and

WHEREAS, The use of waste materials in the construction of pavements has benefits in not only reducing the amount of waste materials requiring disposal but can also provide construction materials with significant savings over new materials; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request the Department of Transportation to undertake a study documenting the feasibility of using recycled slate waste in projects associated with highway construction, concrete aggregate and drainfields or as a skid-resistant aggregate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation be urged to report its findings to the General Assembly and the Governor's office within six months of the adoption of this resolution, such report to include:

- (1) pertinent technical, economic and environmental considerations involved in the use of slate waste for highway construction and civil engineering projects by State and

1 local governments; and  
2 (2) the utilization and practices of all states relating  
3 to the reuse of slate waste material in construction  
4 projects.