

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 279 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY CAUSER, GABLER, HUTCHINSON, BROOKS, CREIGHTON,
GEIST, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GROVE, HORNAMAN, KAUFFMAN,
MILLARD, MURT, PYLE, RAPP, ROAE AND SONNEY, MAY 11, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, MAY 11, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to
2 reconsider and reverse its December 17, 2010, Order directing
3 a split of the 814 area code in favor of an overlay.

4 WHEREAS, Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934, as
5 amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, gives the Federal
6 Communications Commission (FCC) exclusive jurisdiction over the
7 North American Numbering Plan and permits the FCC to delegate
8 that jurisdiction to State regulatory commissions; and

9 WHEREAS, The FCC recognized that state commissions are
10 uniquely positioned to understand local conditions and the
11 potential effects associated with area code and Numbering Plan
12 Area (NPA) implementation and thus has authorized states to
13 resolve matters involving the implementation of new area codes,
14 subject to FCC rules and guidelines governing the administration
15 of telephone numbers; and

16 WHEREAS, On June 2, 2009, Neustar, Inc., the North American
17 Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), in its capacity as the
18 neutral third party Numbering Plan Area Relief Planner for

1 Pennsylvania, filed a petition on behalf of the Pennsylvania
2 telecommunications industry with the Pennsylvania Public Utility
3 Commission (Commission) requesting approval of its plan for area
4 code relief in the 814 NPA; and

5 WHEREAS, On December 17, 2010, the Commission entered an
6 Order rejecting the NANPA relief recommendation and, instead,
7 directed that a geographic split of the 814 area code be
8 implemented within 22 months; and

9 WHEREAS, The Commission, in its Order, directed NANPA to
10 submit monthly updates on the projected exhaust date of the 814
11 area code; and

12 WHEREAS, A monthly report submitted by NANPA, pursuant to the
13 Commission's Order, and released on January 2, 2011, shows that,
14 based upon historic code demand for the past 12 months, the 814
15 area code may not exhaust until September 2031; and

16 WHEREAS, A semiannual Number Resource Utilization Forecast
17 (NRUF) report is scheduled to be released to the public in April
18 2011 and may reflect a further extension of the projected area
19 code exhaust date; and

20 WHEREAS, The information contained in NANPA's monthly reports
21 to the Commission and the April 2011 NRUF report contain data
22 that was not available to be considered by the Commission in
23 making its December 17, 2010, Order; and

24 WHEREAS, More than 40 Petitions for Reconsideration have been
25 filed regarding the Commission's Order, including petitions by
26 several State legislators and local government officials; and

27 WHEREAS, If implemented, the split of the 814 area code
28 directed by the Commission's December 17, 2010, Order, would be
29 the first area code split, nationwide, in three years; and

30 WHEREAS, The directed split of the 814 area code would

1 require more than 1 million telephone customers in 11 counties
2 to change their 814 telephone numbers to 582 numbers; and

3 WHEREAS, An area code overlay would enable all existing
4 customers to keep their current telephone numbers and only new
5 lines would be assigned a new area code, after all numbers in
6 the 814 area code are exhausted; and

7 WHEREAS, Implementation of an overlay presents fewer
8 inconveniences to residents and businesses in the 814 area code
9 in that current telephone line subscribers will avoid the costs
10 of having to change their telephone numbers, such as: notifying
11 friends, family and business contacts of the new number,
12 updating letterhead and business cards, changing directories and
13 numbers programmed into wireless phones and speed dials;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives memorialize the
16 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to reconsider and reverse
17 its December 17, 2010, Order directing a split of the 814 area
18 code in favor of an area code overlay; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
20 the Chairman and Commissioners of the Public Utility Commission.