

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 54 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY LEACH, FONTANA, STACK, M. WHITE, COSTA, GREENLEAF,
ARGALL, FERLO, BROWNE, WASHINGTON AND FARNESE, MARCH 7, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
MARCH 7, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the museums in this Commonwealth and
3 research and evaluate how funding and resources are allocated
4 for this Commonwealth's museums.

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums are vital players in the
6 economic and social prosperity of this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums provide valuable
8 educational experience to citizens of all ages; and

9 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums provide significant
10 economic impact and tourism dollars; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums help preserve the long
12 history of Pennsylvania, this nation and the world; and

13 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums help educate young and
14 old alike on a variety of subjects from fine art to Pennsylvania
15 history to sports history; and

16 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums are a low-cost, family
17 friendly cultural attraction; and

18 WHEREAS, The Federal Government defines a museum as "a public

1 or private nonprofit agency or institution organized on a
2 permanent basis for essentially education or aesthetic purposes,
3 which, utilizing a professional staff, owns or utilizes tangible
4 objects, cares for them, and exhibits them on a regular basis";
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth funds its museums in a variety of
7 ways including the Museum Assistance Grants, Nonpreferred
8 Appropriations and individual line items within the State
9 operating budget; and

10 WHEREAS, There has been a decline in State funding to this
11 Commonwealth's museums in recent years; and

12 WHEREAS, The unpredictable and varied funding for this
13 Commonwealth's museums has been a burden to many of the museums;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The temporary or permanent loss of any of this
16 Commonwealth's museums due to a decline in State funding will
17 impact the economic and cultural climate of its surrounding
18 community; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
20 conduct a study of this Commonwealth's museums, measuring
21 funding and resources allocated to the museums; and be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That the study should include an analysis of the
24 current museum funding; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
26 provide recommendations necessary or desirable to improve the
27 funding of this Commonwealth's valued museums; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
29 report to the Senate the result of its study and recommendations
30 regarding the status of funding of this Commonwealth's museums

1 and file the report with the Chief Clerk of the Senate no later
2 than 90 days after adoption of this resolution.