
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 39 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, BREWSTER, STACK, ERICKSON, COSTA,
McILHINNEY, FERLO AND GREENLEAF, MARCH 13, 2013

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MARCH 13, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the establishment, implementation and
3 administration of fees for the consumptive use and
4 degradation of water.

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is estimated to have more than 86,000
6 miles of streams, nearly 4,000 lakes and 80 trillion gallons of
7 groundwater; and

8 WHEREAS, The commercial demand for water continues to grow,
9 with withdrawals of surface and groundwater estimated to exceed
10 10 billion gallons per day; and

11 WHEREAS, Billions of gallons of water are either never
12 returned to Pennsylvania's water cycle or returned in a degraded
13 condition each day; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth receives no compensation for either
15 the consumptive use or degradation of water; and

16 WHEREAS, Section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of
17 Pennsylvania provides as follows: "The people have a right to
18 clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural,
19 scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.

1 Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property
2 of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee
3 of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain
4 them for the benefit of all the people"; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and
6 Finance Committee to study the establishment of both a fee for
7 the consumptive use of water and a fee for the degradation of
8 water; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the study examine proposed and successful
10 attempts of other states to assess fees for the consumptive use
11 or degradation of natural resources; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the study identify the consumptive and
13 degrading uses to which the fees would apply; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the study estimate the revenue-generating
15 potential of the fees; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the study recommend conservation purposes and
17 programs that should benefit from the revenues generated by the
18 fees; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the study evaluate how to assess, collect,
20 manage and allocate the proceeds of the fees, including, but not
21 limited to, an evaluation of existing models within this
22 Commonwealth; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
24 be authorized to seek a contractor or consultant to assist in
25 this study; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
27 report all findings and conclusions on this issue to the Senate
28 within 12 months of the adoption of this resolution.