

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 60 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, MILLARD, SANKEY, MURT, ROSS, BENNINGHOFF, MAJOR, MUSTIO, KORTZ, D. PARKER, GOODMAN, MAHER AND HANNA, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, DECEMBER 18, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review
2 the Commonwealth's program for beneficial use of sewage
3 sludge by land application.

4 WHEREAS, In 1997, the Commonwealth established regulations
5 for the beneficial use of sewage sludge, more commonly referred
6 to as biosolids, by land application; and

7 WHEREAS, The regulations are published under 25 Pa. Code Ch.
8 271 Subch. J (relating to beneficial use of sewage sludge by
9 land application); and

10 WHEREAS, Subchapter J establishes standards for general and
11 individual land application of sewage sludge permits for the
12 beneficial use of sewage sludge by land application; and

13 WHEREAS, The standards consist of general requirements,
14 pollutant limits, management practices and operational
15 standards; and

16 WHEREAS, Subchapter J also includes pathogen and alternative
17 vector attraction reduction requirements; and

1 WHEREAS, The standards in Subchapter J include reporting
2 requirements and the frequency of monitoring and recordkeeping
3 requirements when biosolids are applied to the land for
4 beneficial use; and

5 WHEREAS, A comprehensive review of the Commonwealth's program
6 for the beneficial use of biosolids by land application has not
7 been conducted since the study on land application of sewage
8 sludge in Pennsylvania in 1997; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
10 undertake a comprehensive review of the beneficial use of
11 biosolids by land application and prepare a report of its
12 findings which shall, at a minimum, identify all of the
13 following:

14 (1) The methods currently used for biosolids use and
15 disposal in this Commonwealth.

16 (2) The costs involved with current methods of biosolids
17 use and disposal.

18 (3) The methods used to administer and enforce the
19 program established under 25 Pa. Code Ch. 271 Subch. J by the
20 Department of Environmental Protection.

21 (4) All appropriate alternatives to current use and
22 disposal methods employed in this Commonwealth and in other
23 states, particularly in regard to their economic feasibility
24 and effects on the environment and on public health in
25 comparison to current use and disposal ~~methods,~~ METHODS. <--

26 (5) ANY ALTERNATIVE BENEFICIAL USE, INCLUDING BUT NOT
27 LIMITED TO, ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION AND ABANDONED MINE
28 RECLAMATION, AND ANY OBSTACLES THAT MAY HINDER THE EXPANSION
29 OF ANY ALTERNATIVE BENEFICIAL USE OF BIOSOLIDS;
30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
2 make a report of its findings and recommendations to the House
3 of Representatives within one year of adoption of this
4 resolution.