
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 209 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, HUTCHINSON, AUMENT, FOLMER, KILLION,
MENSCH, REGAN, BARTOLOTTA, VULAKOVICH AND WARD,
OCTOBER 3, 2017

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, OCTOBER 3, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 thorough and comprehensive analysis of the potential
3 consolidation of interstate operations at the Department of
4 Transportation and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

5 WHEREAS, The Department of Transportation was created in 1970
6 when the former Department of Highways was merged with
7 transportation-related functions from the Department of
8 Commerce, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Forests
9 and Waters, Department of Military Affairs and the Department of
10 Revenue; and

11 WHEREAS, With an annual budget of more than \$8,000,000,000 in
12 Federal and State funds, the department oversees programs and
13 policies affecting highways, urban and rural public
14 transportation, airports, railroads, ports and waterways; and

15 WHEREAS, The department is directly responsible for nearly
16 40,000 miles of highway and roughly 25,400 bridges, a system
17 first established in 1911; and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 10,600 employees at the department are

1 engaged in the maintenance, restoration and expansion of the
2 State highway system, and work in the central headquarters in
3 Harrisburg and 11 engineering districts, with facilities in all
4 67 counties; and

5 WHEREAS, The department is divided into five main areas
6 including Highway Administration, Driver and Vehicle Services,
7 Planning, Multimodal Transportation and Administration; and

8 WHEREAS, The creation of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission
9 was authorized in 1937, and the original 160-mile section of the
10 Pennsylvania Turnpike, known as "America's First Superhighway,"
11 opened in 1940; and

12 WHEREAS, The commission has an operating budget of
13 approximately \$360,000,000 with gross toll revenue estimated at
14 \$1,000,000,000; and

15 WHEREAS, The commission will have assumed nearly
16 \$17,000,000,000 in debt by 2022, primarily as a result of
17 \$450,000,000 in annual funding contributions to the department
18 required under Act 44 of 2007; and

19 WHEREAS, The commission is directly responsible for 552 miles
20 of roadway, 1,150 bridges, 79 interchange configurations, 27
21 maintenance facilities and 17 service plazas; and

22 WHEREAS, The commission is governed by five commissioners,
23 employs more than 2,000 employees, with two-thirds working in
24 field locations and the remainder working in the central
25 headquarters in Middletown and five maintenance districts; and

26 WHEREAS, The commission is divided into five main areas,
27 including Toll Collection, Operations, Maintenance, Human
28 Resources, Traffic Engineering; and

29 WHEREAS, The National Highway System is a network of
30 strategic highways within the United States, including the

1 Interstate Highway System and other roads serving major
2 airports, ports, rail or truck terminals, railway stations,
3 pipeline terminals and other strategic transport facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, The department and the commission have a shared
5 responsibility of managing, constructing and maintaining the
6 Commonwealth's interstate system, including interstate and
7 freeway designations such as I-76, I-276 and I-476; and

8 WHEREAS, There has never been a study of the potential
9 consolidation of the interstate operations between the
10 department and the commission; and

11 WHEREAS, Both the department and the commission created a
12 "Mapping the Future" initiative in 2011 to discuss government
13 working better together by aligning areas of strength, to
14 initiate cooperation and reform, to maximize funding and to
15 explore collaboration in the areas of design, construction,
16 facilities, procurement and purchasing, communications and
17 public relations, maintenance and operations and intelligent
18 transportation systems; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate of Pennsylvania direct the Joint
20 State Government Commission to conduct a thorough and
21 comprehensive analysis of the potential consolidation of
22 interstate operations at the department and the commission
23 through the creation of an Interstate Operations division at the
24 department; and be it further

25 Resolved, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
26 conducting the study, shall do all of the following:

27 (1) Evaluate the cost savings, efficiencies and customer
28 service improvements that may materialize as a result of
29 consolidating the interstate operations, including personnel,
30 equipment, facilities and highway administration.

1 (2) Identify Federal and State laws that could impact
2 the consolidation of interstate operations.

3 (3) Review cases in other states where tolled bridges or
4 roadways are effectively governed under a state department of
5 transportation.

6 (4) Evaluate and make recommendations on how to manage
7 the turnpike's debt as a result of the consolidation of
8 interstate operations.

9 (5) Evaluate and make recommendations on how to align
10 contractual agreements, including labor agreements,
11 bondholder agreements or other partnership agreements, as a
12 result of the consolidation of interstate operations.

13 (6) Propose legislation required to implement the
14 consolidation of interstate operations;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
17 its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than 18
18 months from the adoption of this resolution.