

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20____

BY _____, **District**
NO. _____

BY _____, **District**
NO. _____

BY _____, **District**
NO. _____

BY _____, **District**
NO. _____

BY _____, **District**
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

☐ **Prior Session** _____

Referred to Committee on

Date _____, 20____

Reported _____, 20____

As Committed-Amended

Recommendation

By Hon. _____

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a comprehensive study to determine and report on the
3 potential impact of the ongoing retail collapse and the
4 resultant closing of brick-and-mortar retail stores, malls
5 and shopping centers on the work force and economy of this
6 Commonwealth.

7 WHEREAS, Technological change impelled by new infrastructure
8 and favorable tax policies have created a radical shift in the
9 way Americans shop, resulting in an escalating number of
10 displaced workers as the number of consumers shopping online
11 increases and physical retail locations close; and

12 WHEREAS, Further shifts in consumer spending pose additional
13 challenges to brick-and-mortar retail stores due to rising
14 inflation and decreasing wage growth; and

15 WHEREAS, The failure of suburban malls and the shuttering of
16 physical retail stores is projected to have an impact on the
17 modern work force similar to that of the 20th-century decline of
18 urban retail seen in American downtowns; and

19 WHEREAS, Statistics released by the United States Department

1 of Labor reflect that the number of retail jobs have continued
2 to decline, losing nearly 100,000 workers since October 2016 and
3 nearly 30,000 in March 2017 alone; and

4 WHEREAS, Low-skilled workers are facing the greatest impact
5 due to the constant loss of jobs in the retail sector; and

6 WHEREAS, Alternative ways to reuse and repurpose vacated
7 retail spaces must be identified to create jobs and revitalize
8 communities; and

9 WHEREAS, Government plays a vital role in understanding the
10 potential impact of the challenges faced as a result of the
11 closing of retail stores and must work to staunch the current
12 displacement of workers and the negative economic effects on the
13 surrounding communities; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
15 conduct a comprehensive study of the effects of the shuttering
16 of physical retail locations on the work force and economy of
17 this Commonwealth, with specific emphasis on retention of
18 workers and the potential alteration of tax policies; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
21 review the challenges and opportunities presented by the ongoing
22 downfall of suburban retail stores, focusing on the economic
23 impact of its decline, needs related to unemployment and
24 displacement in the work force and the development of plans to
25 revitalize vacated retail space; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
27 submit a report of its findings to the House of Representatives
28 by December 31, 2018.