

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 272 Session of
1996

INTRODUCED BY MANDERINO, MUNDY, SCRIMENTI, THOMAS, M. COHEN,
CARONE, STEELMAN, WALKO, BELARDI, KENNEY, STABACK, GODSHALL,
HERSHEY, BOSCOLA, HESS, ROONEY, ROBINSON, BATTISTO, LEVDANSKY
AND LAUGHLIN, JANUARY 31, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 31, 1996

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to
2 report annually to the General Assembly information relating
3 to archaeological surveys and field investigations.

4 WHEREAS, Archaeological studies and excavations can provide
5 answers to many questions about the existence of life forms
6 throughout the earth's history; and

7 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is a land rich in archaeological
8 resources and section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of
9 Pennsylvania designates the Commonwealth as trustee for the
10 preservation of historic values of the environment; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is
12 responsible for the conservation of this Commonwealth's natural
13 and historic resources, which include the identification,
14 restoration and preservation of historically significant sites;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Many historically significant sites may be found on
17 private properties, and investigations may be conducted on those

1 properties with the consent of the owners of such properties;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Act No.70 of 1995 requires the Pennsylvania
4 Historical and Museum Commission to pay for the costs of surveys
5 and field investigations conducted on private properties, as
6 well as locally owned highways and bridges; and

7 WHEREAS, The costs of these studies could have a serious
8 impact on the budget of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
9 Commission, and it will be necessary for the General Assembly to
10 monitor the number of surveys and field investigations in order
11 that the General Assembly can base its appropriation on an
12 accurate assessment of the demands made on the commission as a
13 result of Act No.70; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
15 Commission file an annual report by December 31, beginning
16 December 31, 1996, with the General Assembly; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That this annual report contain the number and
18 location of requests to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
19 Commission for determining the archaeological significance of a
20 particular site, the number and location of each site determined
21 to be archaeologically significant by the commission, the number
22 of those determinations made in writing, the number and location
23 of each archaeological survey deemed necessary by the
24 commission, the length of time needed for the completion of each
25 survey as well as any extensions granted by the commission, the
26 number and location of each Phase III archaeological field
27 investigation deemed necessary by the commission, the length of
28 time for completion of each Phase III archaeological field
29 investigation as well as any extensions granted by the
30 commission and the number of determinations rendered by the

1 commission that a survey or investigation was not necessary.