
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 252 Session of
1998

INTRODUCED BY WAGNER, TILGHMAN, AFFLERBACH, COSTA, BODACK,
MURPHY AND HUGHES, NOVEMBER 24, 1998

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, NOVEMBER 24, 1998

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to create a commission to administer funds
2 to be received from the tobacco litigation settlement for the
3 purpose of establishing public health initiatives which prevent
4 youth access and provide education to the public on health
5 implications of tobacco use.

6 WHEREAS, Several states have filed lawsuits against cigarette
7 makers such as J.R. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Phillip Morris,
8 American Tobacco Inc., Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corp. and
9 its parent company B.A.T. Industries, P.L.C., Brooke Group
10 Ltd.'s Liggett Group, Lorillard Tobacco Co., Inc., and United
11 States Tobacco Co.; and

12 WHEREAS, The lawsuits filed against cigarette makers, in
13 general, allege that the industry manipulated nicotine levels in
14 cigarettes to keep smokers addicted; and

15 WHEREAS, The lawsuits were filed due to the millions of
16 dollars spent on the treatment of smoking-related illnesses
17 under the Medicaid program; and

18 WHEREAS, Thousands of Pennsylvanians have succumbed to
19 smoking-related illnesses; and

1 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has joined in the
2 lawsuits, through Attorney General Michael Fisher, seeking
3 recovery of the financial costs incurred by the Commonwealth of
4 Pennsylvania for the treatment of smoking-related illnesses; and

5 WHEREAS, The Attorney General of the Commonwealth of
6 Pennsylvania along with attorneys general from other states
7 announced on November 16, 1998, a settlement proposal of the
8 tobacco litigation; and

9 WHEREAS, The proposed settlement would impose bans on the
10 marketing of tobacco products and require a payment of \$206
11 billion to states by the tobacco industry and an additional
12 \$1.45 billion for the establishment of a National Public
13 Education Fund; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania may recover as much as \$11 billion
15 under the proposed settlement; and

16 WHEREAS, Attorney General Michael Fisher should be
17 congratulated for his work in this historic settlement; and

18 WHEREAS, The settlement of the tobacco lawsuits marks the
19 beginning of a public health initiative on the education and
20 prevention of tobacco use; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Governor to form a
22 commission, with the participation of the Attorney General, to
23 implement and to advise the Commonwealth on use of funds for the
24 purpose of reducing youth access and consumption and providing
25 education to the public on the health implications of tobacco
26 use with emphasis on tobacco-related cancer research and
27 prevention through hospitals and universities in this
28 Commonwealth; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the commission include, at a minimum, the
30 Attorney General, President pro tempore of the Senate, the

1 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of
2 the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House of
3 Representatives, or their appointed representatives, members of
4 the public, the Physician General, the Secretary of Health and a
5 representative from the Pennsylvania State Education
6 Association; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge the Governor to form the
8 commission as soon as the proposed tobacco settlement has been
9 finalized in accordance with the law; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That this resolution be sent to Governor Thomas J.
11 Ridge and Attorney General Michael Fisher.