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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 120 Session of  
1999

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INTRODUCED BY FAIRCHILD, HERSHEY, ARGALL, BAKER, BELARDI, BLAUM,  
BUXTON, CHADWICK, CLARK, COY, DEMPSEY, EGOLF, GEORGE,  
GORDNER, HALUSKA, HERMAN, HESS, MAITLAND, MAJOR, MARSICO,  
MASLAND, McNAUGHTON, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR,  
NICKOL, PHILLIPS, PLATTS, SATHER, SAYLOR, STABACK, STEELMAN,  
STERN, STRITTMATTER, STURLA, TIGUE, TRUE, TULLI, VANCE,  
YUDICHAK, ZIMMERMAN AND ZUG, APRIL 13, 1999

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
APRIL 13, 1999

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging cooperation and communication between and among the  
2 legislative branches of the states of Pennsylvania, New York  
3 and Maryland on matters relating to the conservation and  
4 management of the water resources of the Susquehanna River  
5 Basin.

6 WHEREAS, The Susquehanna River represents one of the most  
7 important interstate and national water resources, draining an  
8 area of 27,510 square miles and flowing through the states of  
9 Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland; and

10 WHEREAS, The Susquehanna River provides 50% of the fresh  
11 water flowing to the Chesapeake Bay, a factor which emphasizes  
12 its significance as an important regional and national resource;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The enactment of concurrent legislation by the  
15 signatory states of Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland and the  
16 Congress of the United States created the Susquehanna River

1 Basin Compact and demonstrated a collective recognition of the  
2 need to coordinate the efforts of the three states and Federal  
3 agencies in the establishment of a management system to guide  
4 the conservation, development and administration of the water  
5 resources of the river basin; and

6 WHEREAS, The compact establishes the Susquehanna River Basin  
7 Commission as the agency to coordinate the water resource  
8 management efforts of the river basin and provides for executive  
9 branch representation from each of its signatory jurisdictions  
10 on the commission; and

11 WHEREAS, The individual water resource management efforts of  
12 the signatories and those undertaken by the commission have been  
13 effective in providing flood damage reduction, conservation and  
14 development of surface and groundwater supply for municipal,  
15 industrial and agricultural use, development of recreational  
16 facilities, propagation of fish and wildlife, promotion of  
17 forest land management, soil conservation and watershed  
18 projects, protection and aid to fisheries, improved navigation,  
19 control of the movement of salt water, abatement and control of  
20 water pollution and regulation of streamflow toward the  
21 attainment of these goals; and

22 WHEREAS, The General Assemblies of the states of  
23 Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland have enacted certain laws  
24 which have advanced these important water resource management  
25 functions and the natural, scenic, cultural and historic values  
26 of the Susquehanna River Basin; and

27 WHEREAS, The General Assemblies of the states of  
28 Pennsylvania, New York and Maryland are continuing to have  
29 legislative proposals under consideration by their respective  
30 bodies which may impact or enhance these important water

1 resource management functions and values; and

2 WHEREAS, Though not afforded a forum similar to that provided  
3 their respective executive branches through adoption of the  
4 compact, the General Assemblies of the signatory states have a  
5 clearly recognized need for cooperation and communication to  
6 facilitate complementary action and support on matters of  
7 basinwide significance, particularly in the face of greater  
8 water resource management challenges in the new millennium;  
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the  
11 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize the interstate  
12 significance of the water resources of the Susquehanna River  
13 Basin and the wise use and management of those resources through  
14 cooperation and coordination by jurisdictions throughout the  
15 basin; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the members of the General Assembly of the  
17 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, particularly those whose  
18 legislative districts are contained wholly or partially within  
19 the Susquehanna River Basin, be encouraged to communicate and  
20 cooperate with members of the General Assemblies of the states  
21 of New York and Maryland on water resource issues of mutual  
22 concern and to seek their reciprocal support; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the  
24 General Assemblies of the states of New York and Maryland.