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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**No. 60**

Session of  
2003

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INTRODUCED BY WAUGH, LOGAN, COSTA, TARTAGLIONE, HELFRICK,  
ERICKSON, BRIGHTBILL, BOSCOLA, STOUT, RAFFERTY, PUNT, CONTI,  
KUKOVICH, TOMLINSON, ORIE, ARMSTRONG, EARLL, O'PAKE, DENT,  
SCHWARTZ, WAGNER, MUSTO, D. WHITE, WOZNIAK, RHOADES,  
WONDERLING, THOMPSON AND ROBBINS, APRIL 24, 2003

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REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
APRIL 24, 2003

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a special bipartisan legislative commission to  
2 develop legislation to provide direct and indirect assistance  
3 for the purpose of improving the delivery of emergency  
4 services in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, The citizens of this Commonwealth benefit daily from  
6 the services, knowledge and skills of municipal emergency  
7 service providers and volunteer emergency service providers who  
8 routinely place the safety and well-being of others over their  
9 own; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the delivery of emergency  
11 services in this Commonwealth, particularly through the use of  
12 volunteer fire companies and volunteer emergency services,  
13 effectively saves the people of this Commonwealth billions of  
14 dollars and countless lives every year; and

15 WHEREAS, The emergency services in this Commonwealth are  
16 being tasked to provide even greater levels of service with very  
17 limited resources; and

1       WHEREAS, On September 29, 2002, the Pennsylvania Emergency  
2 Management Agency, in consultation with the Fire and Emergency  
3 Services Task Force, presented "A Study of Volunteer Fire and  
4 Emergency Medical Services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,"  
5 to the General Assembly in accordance with the act of June 29,  
6 2002 (P.L.559, No.89) which made recommendations on various  
7 long-term initiatives to improve the delivery of emergency  
8 services in this Commonwealth; and

9       WHEREAS, This report took into consideration every major  
10 study of the fire and emergency services in this Commonwealth  
11 for the past 30 years and updated those findings to better  
12 reflect the current needs of the emergency services; therefore  
13 be it

14       RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
15 General Assembly establish a special bipartisan legislative  
16 commission to develop and recommend legislation providing direct  
17 and indirect assistance to improve the delivery of emergency  
18 services in this Commonwealth; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following 23  
20 members:

21           (1) The chair and minority chair of the Senate Committee  
22 on Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

23           (2) The chair and minority chair of the House of  
24 Representatives Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency  
25 Preparedness.

26           (3) The two cochairs of the Firefighter and Emergency  
27 Services Caucus in the Senate.

28           (4) The two cochairs of the Firefighter and Emergency  
29 Services Caucus in the House of Representatives.

30           (5) The State Fire Commissioner.

1           (6) The president of the County Commissioners  
2 Association of Pennsylvania or a designee.

3           (7) The president of the League of Cities and  
4 Municipalities or a designee.

5           (8) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association  
6 of Township Supervisors or a designee.

7           (9) The president of the Pennsylvania Firemen's  
8 Legislative Federation.

9           (10) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association  
10 of Boroughs or a designee.

11           (11) The president of the Pennsylvania Fire and  
12 Emergency Services Institute or a designee.

13           (12) The president of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health  
14 Services Council or a designee.

15           (13) The president of the Fireman's Association of the  
16 State of Pennsylvania or a designee.

17           (14) The president of the Western Pennsylvania Firemen's  
18 Association or a designee.

19           (15) The president of the Pennsylvania Professional  
20 Firefighters Association or a designee.

21           (16) Two fire chiefs of volunteer fire companies in  
22 Pennsylvania: one of whom shall be selected by the President  
23 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected  
24 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25           (17) Two fire chiefs of municipal fire companies in  
26 Pennsylvania: one of whom shall be selected by the President  
27 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected  
28 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

29 and be it further

30       RESOLVED, That the commission elect a chair from its

1 membership; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop legislation to  
3 improve the delivery of emergency services; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings, take  
5 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems  
6 necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the commission develop legislation to  
8 establish an institutionalized, need-based grant program for  
9 volunteer fire and emergency services and a municipal  
10 firefighter education and training program as well as to ensure  
11 that there are adequate funds in the Volunteer Loan Assistance  
12 Program established under the act of July 15, 1976 (P.L.1036,  
13 No.208), known as the Volunteer Fire Company, Ambulance Service  
14 and Rescue Squad Assistance Act; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the commission shall make an interim report  
16 with legislative recommendations by June 13, 2003; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the commission make a final report of all  
19 other legislative recommendations by June 30, 2004; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission shall serve  
22 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary  
23 and actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties;  
24 and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the actual expenses incurred by the commission  
26 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of  
27 Representatives.