

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 60

Session of
2003

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, ROBBINS AND KASUNIC, APRIL 24, 2003

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE AMENDMENTS, JULY 8, 2003

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
20 members:

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

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

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

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

30 (5) The State Fire Commissioner or a designee.

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 or a designee.

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 (18) The President of the Ambulance Association of
30 Pennsylvania or a designee.

1 (19) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
2 of Township Commissioners or a designee;
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the commission elect a chair from its
5 membership; and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That the reasonable expenses incurred by the
26 commission be equally divided between the Senate and the House
27 of Representatives. The ~~four co-chairs of the Senate and the~~
28 ~~House of Representatives Firefighter and Emergency Services~~
29 ~~Caucuses shall~~ APPROVAL OF THE CHAIR AND THE MINORITY CHAIR OF
30 THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY

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1 PREPAREDNESS AND THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE HOUSE OF
2 REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
3 PREPAREDNESS, by action of a majority of such members, SHALL be <—
4 required to preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission
5 which will entail the expenditure of State funds and shall also
6 be required to approve all expenditures, including expense
7 reimbursement requests of commission members, prior to payment.