
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 110 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY ROSS, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CURRY, DePASQUALE,
FABRIZIO, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GRELL, GRUCELA, HENNESSEY,
HERSHEY, JOSEPHS, MANDERINO, MANN, MOYER, MUNDY, NAILOR,
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READSHAW, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SCHRODER, STERN, THOMAS,
VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, WATSON, WHEATLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK
AND SIPTROTH, MARCH 9, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
MARCH 9, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to
2 study and report on the issue of methods to reduce greenhouse
3 gas emissions.

4 WHEREAS, There is growing scientific consensus that the
5 global climate is warming at rates that could cause significant
6 temperature increases and weather pattern changes across the
7 globe; and

8 WHEREAS, Various scientific organizations such as the
9 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National
10 Academy of Science have presented a variety of studies
11 describing the potential short-term and long-term effects
12 associated with rising global temperatures; and

13 WHEREAS, These studies have shown that atmospheric levels of
14 carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and other greenhouse
15 gases are at their highest since this data was recorded; and

1 WHEREAS, A portion of this global increase in atmospheric
2 greenhouse gases is attributable to human activity such as the
3 combustion of fossil fuels and the use of vehicles for
4 transportation; and

5 WHEREAS, An inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from within
6 this Commonwealth conducted by The Pennsylvania State University
7 in 2002 identified the types and levels of these emissions from
8 various sectors within this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, Mitigation efforts will be necessary to reduce
10 greenhouse gas emissions, and adaptation efforts will be needed
11 to help Pennsylvanians work toward reducing the effects of
12 greenhouse gas emissions; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has taken a leadership role in reducing
14 greenhouse gas emissions by implementing the Alternative Energy
15 Portfolio Standards, by initiating programs to accelerate the
16 use of alternative fuels, and by conducting research,
17 development and deployment of clean energy technologies; and

18 WHEREAS, A variety of Pennsylvania-based companies have taken
19 leadership roles in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in
20 developing new technologies and products that will reduce these
21 emissions; and

22 WHEREAS, It has been demonstrated that strategies to reduce
23 greenhouse gas emissions can lower business operating costs and
24 increase profitability; and

25 WHEREAS, Many of the technologies that reduce greenhouse gas
26 emissions also have the potential for cost savings to
27 Pennsylvania consumers, generating savings across a variety of
28 economic sectors, potentially increasing spending, creating jobs
29 and providing an overall benefit to the State economy; and

30 WHEREAS, The Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

1 held two public meetings on the subject of global climate change
2 and greenhouse gas emissions which provided input to the
3 committee clearly demonstrating the need for additional research
4 and careful consideration of future policy or legislative
5 actions related to the effects of climate change and greenhouse
6 gas reduction strategies on Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, These meetings also raised the possibility that if
8 greenhouse gas emissions policies are not properly developed,
9 the economy of this Commonwealth could be placed at serious risk
10 and its economic competitiveness with other states could be
11 significantly jeopardized; and

12 WHEREAS, While there are a variety of options and
13 technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a State
14 level, it is necessary to fully understand the implications and
15 effects of each and to ensure that strategies are carefully
16 selected so their implementation does not have an adverse impact
17 on any one sector of the economy of this Commonwealth; therefore
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
20 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee to:

21 (1) Gather public input to identify potential cost-
22 effective options that could be undertaken by various sectors
23 of this Commonwealth's economy to reduce greenhouse gas
24 emissions.

25 (2) Utilize the public hearing process to identify those
26 policy and technology options that will reduce greenhouse gas
27 emissions while also identifying options that will not have
28 an adverse impact on this Commonwealth's economy.

29 (3) Determine the advantages and disadvantages of
30 establishing a Statewide climate action registry which

1 generally would record actions taken by various entities to
2 reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3 (4) Prepare a report to the General Assembly that will:

4 (i) describe the public hearing process undertaken;

5 (ii) describe the variety of policy and
6 technological options for reducing greenhouse gas
7 emissions recommended through the public input process;

8 (iii) include a list of those options that have the
9 greatest potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
10 while enhancing the economic competitiveness of all
11 sectors of this Commonwealth's economy; and

12 (iv) include recommendations for future action as
13 may be needed by the General Assembly.