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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE RESOLUTION**

**No. 845**      Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY PETRONE, MUSTIO, RAMALEY AND VULAKOVICH,  
JULY 9, 2008

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JULY 9, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an  
2 in-depth study of the subject of developments of regional  
3 significance and impact; and requiring a report.

4 WHEREAS, On September 19, 2006, a massive landslide occurred  
5 in Kilbuck Township, Allegheny County; and

6 WHEREAS, On October 24, 2006, the House of Representatives  
7 adopted House Resolution 897, which directed the Joint State  
8 Government Commission to conduct an in-depth investigation into  
9 the September 19, 2006, landslide and compile a report on its  
10 findings and recommendations; and

11 WHEREAS, House Resolution 897 authorized the appointment of a  
12 four-member legislative task force and an advisory committee to  
13 assist the task force in this undertaking; and

14 WHEREAS, The advisory committee established under House  
15 Resolution 897 represented a broad range of expertise and  
16 interests and included attorneys, geologists, engineers, land  
17 use planners, representatives of local and county governments,  
18 representatives of community development organizations,

1 environmental advocates, representatives of Communities First!,  
2 the executive director of the Joint Legislative Air and Water  
3 Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, a representative  
4 from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, a  
5 representative from the Department of Environmental Protection  
6 and a representative from the Department of Transportation; and

7 WHEREAS, The task force and advisory committee noted that  
8 possible issues contributing to the Kilbuck landslide included  
9 geologically hazardous conditions at the site, inadequate  
10 coordination among regulatory decisionmakers and lack of  
11 capacity by some municipalities, particularly with respect to  
12 approvals of large, complex developments; and

13 WHEREAS, The task force and advisory committee agreed to  
14 address the following seven subject areas that could help  
15 prevent the occurrence of such landslides:

16 (1) revisions to the Pennsylvania Municipalities  
17 Planning Code;

18 (2) regional planning and review;

19 (3) resources to local governments;

20 (4) the permitting and inspection process;

21 (5) coordination of agencies' actions;

22 (6) standing and jurisdiction; and

23 (7) disclosure of geologic concerns;

24 and

25 WHEREAS, The task force and advisory committee reached  
26 consensus on findings and recommendations as contemplated by  
27 House Resolution 897; and

28 WHEREAS, On June 9, 2008, the task force authorized the  
29 release of the report of the task force and advisory committee  
30 and the introduction of the legislation contained in the report;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, As part of the findings and recommendations  
3 contained in the report, the task force and advisory committee  
4 acknowledged that further consideration, discussion and analysis  
5 should be given to the subject of developments of regional  
6 significance and impact, which was addressed only briefly in the  
7 report; and

8 WHEREAS, The members of the task force and advisory committee  
9 desired to continue their work regarding the subject of  
10 development of regional significance and impact; and

11 WHEREAS, The task force recommended that further  
12 consideration, discussion and analysis regarding the subject of  
13 developments of regional significance and impact should be  
14 authorized by a new resolution; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
16 authorized to reconstitute the task force and advisory committee  
17 established under House Resolution 897 to conduct an in-depth  
18 study of the subject of developments of regional significance  
19 and impact; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the composition of the reconstituted advisory  
21 committee be modified as necessary and that additional persons  
22 may be appointed as members of the advisory committee; and be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission compile  
25 a report based on the findings and recommendations of the  
26 reconstituted task force and advisory committee and submit the  
27 report to the House of Representatives as soon as possible but  
28 no later than two years following the adoption of this  
29 resolution.