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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 830 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY HORNAMAN, CALTAGIRONE, DALEY, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL,  
FREEMAN, GEORGE, GOODMAN, HARKINS, KOTIK, PARKER, SCHMOTZER  
AND WILLIAMS, SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2012

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study of the establishment, implementation and  
3 administration of fees for the consumptive use and  
4 degradation of water by large commercial users.

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is estimated to have more than 83,000  
6 miles of streams, nearly 4,000 lakes and 80 trillion gallons of  
7 groundwater; and

8 WHEREAS, The commercial demand for water continues to grow,  
9 with withdrawals of surface and groundwater estimated to exceed  
10 10 billion gallons per day; and

11 WHEREAS, Billions of gallons of water are either never  
12 returned to Pennsylvania's water cycle or are returned in a  
13 degraded condition each day; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth receives no compensation for either  
15 the consumptive use or degradation of water; and

16 WHEREAS, Section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of  
17 Pennsylvania provides as follows: The people have a right to  
18 clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural,

1 scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.  
2 Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property  
3 of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee  
4 of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain  
5 them for the benefit of all the people; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
7 direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the  
8 establishment of both a fee for the consumptive use of water by  
9 large commercial users and a fee for the degradation of water by  
10 large commercial users; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the study examine proposed and successful  
12 attempts of other states to assess fees for the consumptive use  
13 or degradation of natural resources; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the study:

15           (1) Identify the consumptive and degrading uses to which  
16 the fees would apply.

17           (2) Estimate the revenue-generating potential of the  
18 fees.

19           (3) Recommend conservation purposes and programs that  
20 should benefit from the revenues generated by the fees.

21           (4) Evaluate how to assess, collect, manage and allocate  
22 the proceeds of the fees, including an evaluation of existing  
23 models within this Commonwealth;

24 and be it further

25       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
26 be authorized to seek a contractor or consultant to assist in  
27 the study; and be it further

28       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
29 report all findings and conclusions of the study to the  
30 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate and

1 the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House of  
2 Representatives within 12 months of the adoption of this  
3 resolution.