THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 13 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, FARNESE, YUDICHAK, ERICKSON, YAW, HUGHES, FERLO, VULAKOVICH, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, STACK AND BREWSTER, JANUARY 25, 2013

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, JANUARY 25, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review
2   the Commonwealth's program of providing funding for drinking
3   water, wastewater and storm water projects authorized under
4   the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Act.

5   WHEREAS, It is important for the Commonwealth to have in

6 place proper water supply, sewage disposal and storm water

7 systems throughout this Commonwealth; and

8   WHEREAS, A program to fund drinking water, wastewater and

9 storm water projects will ensure public health and safety, a

10 quality environment and economic development; and

11   WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognized that many

12 Pennsylvania communities have antiquated or inadequate water,

13 sewer and storm water systems posing a health risk and

14 consequently enacted the act of March 1, 1988 (P.L.82, No.16),

15 known as the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority

16 Act, which established the Pennsylvania Infrastructure

17 Investment Authority (PENNVEST); and

18   WHEREAS, PENNVEST, an independent State agency, provides low-

1 cost financial assistance for infrastructure improvements to

2 community drinking water, wastewater and storm water systems

3 throughout this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have embraced the need for funding

5 dedicated to the improvement of drinking water, wastewater and

6 storm water systems by approval of several referenda; and

7 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has an obligation to the

8 citizens of this Commonwealth to ensure that this investment is

9 allocated wisely and achieves the results envisioned for

10 PENNVEST; and

11 WHEREAS, A review and evaluation of the implementation of

12 PENNVEST has not been undertaken in over a decade, and the

13 Senate has an interest in ensuring that the program is

14 administered in accordance with the goals and intent of

15 PENNVEST's enabling act; and

16 WHEREAS, A review could lead to recommendations for improving

17 PENNVEST so that more Pennsylvania communities and citizens may

18 benefit from this program; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and

20 Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive review and

21 evaluation of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment

22 Authority Act and prepare a report of its findings which shall,

23 at a minimum:

24   (1) determine all sources of funding for PENNVEST and

25   provide an analysis of how much is Federal, State and other

26   funding;

27   (2) identify the overall amount of bond funding

28   authorized, the amount issued and a schedule of debt service

29   on the bond issuance;

30   (3) identify the total amount of funds allocated and a

1 compilation of how the allocated funds were spent;

2   (4) determine whether funding is being awarded in

3 accordance with the criteria used to prioritize projects;

4   (5) provide a review of the projects approved by each

5 county, including the amount of funding and type of projects;

6   (6) identify amounts of loans and grants awarded on a

7 per county basis and a per Commonwealth resident basis; and

8   (7) determine why any disproportionate awards based on

9 population exist and why some areas of this Commonwealth are

10 underserved; and

11   (8) determine the feasibility of combining PENNVEST with

12 other programs to obtain greater efficiencies and to serve

13 more areas of this Commonwealth; and

14   (9) determine the overall effectiveness of PENNVEST's

15 enabling act in achieving the goals of protecting public

16 health and safety and promoting economic development of this

17 Commonwealth;

18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

20 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate within six

21 months of the adoption of this resolution.