
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 622 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TAYLOR, W. KELLER, STURLA, BRIGGS, VEREB,
SCHLOSSBERG, HEFFLEY, MILLARD, THOMAS, JAMES, MARSHALL,
O'NEILL, NEILSON, PAYNE, GODSHALL, A. HARRIS, NESBIT, COHEN,
READSHAW, HARPER, GROVE, SAYLOR AND GILLEN, DECEMBER 16, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, DECEMBER 16, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a comprehensive review of the appropriate and
3 justifiable level of Motor License Fund support for the
4 Pennsylvania State Police given the constitutional protection
5 of that fund.

6 WHEREAS, The Constitutional Convention of 1967-1968 revised
7 the Constitution of 1874; and

8 WHEREAS, Section 11(a) of Article VIII of the Constitution of
9 Pennsylvania states "All proceeds from gasoline and other motor
10 fuel excise taxes, motor vehicle registration fees and license
11 taxes, operators' license fees and other excise taxes imposed on
12 products used in motor transportation after providing therefrom
13 for (a) cost of administration and collection, (b) payment of
14 obligations incurred in the construction and reconstruction of
15 public highways and bridges shall be appropriated by the General
16 Assembly to agencies of the State or political subdivisions
17 thereof"; and

18 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Pennsylvania further restricts

1 the expenditure of these moneys by stating that they shall be
2 "used solely for construction, reconstruction, maintenance and
3 repair of and safety on public highways and bridges and costs
4 and expenses incident thereto, and for the payment of
5 obligations incurred for such purposes, and shall not be
6 diverted by transfer or otherwise to any other purpose, except
7 that loans may be made by the State from the proceeds of such
8 taxes and fees for a single period not exceeding eight months,
9 but no such loan shall be made within the period of one year
10 from any preceding loan, and every loan made in any fiscal year
11 shall be repayable within one month after the beginning of the
12 next fiscal year."; and

13 WHEREAS, The current proposed Commonwealth budget allocates
14 more than \$750 million from the Motor License Fund to
15 Pennsylvania State Police operations, comprising approximately
16 two-thirds of the entire Pennsylvania State Police budget and
17 representing approximately 12¢ per gallon in the price of
18 gasoline, excluding the operations of Troop-T, which are
19 entirely funded through toll revenues of the Pennsylvania
20 Turnpike Commission; and

21 WHEREAS, At the current rate, the diverted amount is
22 projected to grow to nearly \$1 billion in the next five years;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has seen the diversion of money from
25 the Motor License Fund to the Pennsylvania State Police in ever
26 increasing dollar amounts for decades; and

27 WHEREAS, The first bill to stop this diversion was introduced
28 in March 1995, and bills have been introduced to halt, cap or
29 phase out the diversion in every session thereafter; and

30 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth were promised a

1 "Decade of Investment" in our transportation infrastructure as a
2 benefit of Act 89 of 2013; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
4 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a
5 comprehensive review of the resources typically expended by the
6 Pennsylvania State Police in non-turnpike highway patrol
7 activities; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
9 examine the appropriate and justifiable level of Motor License
10 Fund support under the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
13 identify expenditures in actual dollars, historically and
14 projected, as well as the percentage breakdown by category of
15 expenditure, such as highway patrol, general government
16 operations, training, criminal law enforcement, liquor and other
17 code enforcement; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
19 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the House
20 of Representatives no later than six months from the adoption of
21 this resolution.