
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 894 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCAVELLO, RAFFERTY, HUTCHINSON AND BARTOLOTTA,
JUNE 12, 2015

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 12, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating the bridge on that portion of State Route 940 over
2 Tobyhanna Creek (Pocono Lake) in Tobyhanna Township, Monroe
3 County, as the Sullivan Bridge.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Sullivan Bridge.

7 (a) Findings and declarations.--The General Assembly finds
8 and declares as follows:

9 (1) In 1779, General George Washington ordered General
10 John Sullivan to take approximately 30% of the Continental
11 Army into Upstate New York. The purpose was to quash the
12 aligned British and Six Nations of the Iroquois, who were
13 invading Wilkes-Barre, killing hundreds of military and
14 civilians. The ultimate goal of the British was to gain
15 control of the Susquehanna River from Upstate New York to
16 Baltimore, splitting the colonies to end the rebellion.

17 (2) As the Army gathered in Easton, there was no road
18 over the Pocono Mountains to accommodate thousands of troops,

1 horses, wagons, cannons and supplies. Two regiments of 500
2 military road builders accomplished the task in just six
3 weeks, from Tannersville to Wilkes-Barre. It was a desolate
4 area of forests and swamps, requiring a Herculean effort with
5 just hand tools. The worst section, known as the Great Swamp,
6 was located in what is now Tobyhanna Township. The only
7 bridge the military road builders needed to construct for the
8 new road was over the Tobyhanna Creek. It was immediately
9 named Sullivan Bridge by the construction army. Through the
10 years, the bridge naming was forgotten and should rightfully
11 be restored.

12 (3) Sullivan's Expedition was a success, remarkably with
13 fewer than 50 fatalities. It stopped the British in their
14 tracks, contributing significantly to the birth of our
15 nation. Equally impressive is that the new road, Sullivan's
16 Trail over the Pocono Mountain, opened the region to
17 settlement and development by connecting northeastern
18 Pennsylvania and Upstate New York to the Philadelphia area
19 and its port.

20 (4) Today, Sullivan Bridge continues to significantly
21 serve the region. State Route 940 provides important access
22 to western Monroe County and points beyond. It serves as the
23 major alternative to Interstate 80 in cases of emergencies on
24 the heavily traveled interstate highway. It is at the center
25 of recreational tourism for the Poconos, allowing thousands
26 to enjoy the streams, lakes, forests and all that abounds in
27 the area.

28 (5) The bridge, named for General John Sullivan,
29 represents the northeastern Pennsylvania region's vital role
30 in preserving over time our nation's independence.

1 (b) Designation.--The bridge located on that portion of
2 State Route 940, over Tobyhanna Creek (Pocono Lake) in Tobyhanna
3 Township, Monroe County, is hereby designated the Sullivan
4 Bridge.

5 (c) Signs.--The Department of Transportation shall erect and
6 maintain appropriate signs to indicate the designation under
7 subsection (b).

8 Section 2. Effective date.

9 This act shall take effect in 60 days.