

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 261 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FOLMER, ARGALL, SCAVELLO, YAW, BROWNE, WAGNER,
WARD, SABATINA AND AUMENT, JANUARY 13, 2016

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JANUARY 13, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to support a Passenger
2 Facility Charges (PFC) increase for commercial airports
3 controlled by public agencies.

4 WHEREAS, In 2010, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's public
5 use airports supported approximately 304,400 jobs, generated
6 \$9.2 billion in annual payroll and produced \$23.6 billion in
7 annual economic activities; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1990, the Congress of the United States
9 authorized Passenger Facility Charges (PFCs), local user fees
10 collected for every boarded passenger, to help airports of all
11 sizes meet their capital needs to finance Federal Aviation
12 Administration (FAA) approved projects such as terminals,
13 parking and multimodal projects that enhance safety, security,
14 capacity, noise reduction or increase air carrier competition;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, PFCs are locally determined fees collected at the
17 point of sale, which do not affect Federal expenditures; and

18 WHEREAS, The PFC cap was last raised in 2000 when Congress

1 set it at \$4.50; and

2 WHEREAS, Inflation has eroded the buying power of PFCs by
3 approximately one-half since then due to rising construction
4 costs; and

5 WHEREAS, There is a growing recognition of the need for
6 infrastructure finance and funding to keep pace with inflation
7 and action for doing so such as the act of November 25, 2013
8 (P.L.974, No.89) in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, Modernizing the PFC cap to \$8.50 now and indexing it
10 for inflation would restore its original purchasing power and
11 provide local communities with the ability to set their
12 individual PFC user fees based on locally determined needs for
13 ensuring the safety and security of their airports; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the next five years, airports will require more
15 than \$75 billion to improve infrastructure to prevent passenger
16 delays and congestion; and

17 WHEREAS, Direct Federal funding through the FAA Airport
18 Improvement Program has declined 10% over the past six years and
19 covers only a fraction of the total infrastructure projects
20 required to upgrade and maintain the world-class aviation
21 system; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
23 urge the Congress of the United States to modernize the Federal
24 cap on the locally set PFC user fee by setting it at \$8.50 and
25 adjusting it periodically to offset the impacts of inflation;
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution to be sent to the
28 President of the United States, the presiding officers of each
29 house of Congress and to each member of Congress from
30 Pennsylvania.