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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1068 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL CULVER, WARD, PICKETT, FARRY AND JAMES,  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Labor and Industry to conduct a  
2 study of the fire codes and standards adopted and enforced by  
3 each municipality in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Fire prevention and procedure is essential in  
5 protecting the health and safety of the residents of this  
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Fire codes are necessary to ensure that entities  
8 charged with protecting this Commonwealth from fire and  
9 explosion are following and enforcing the same standards to  
10 minimize loss to persons and property; and

11 WHEREAS, Municipalities in this Commonwealth are required  
12 under 34 Pa. Code Pt. XIV to adopt provisions of the  
13 International Fire Code (IFC), which references the National  
14 Fire Protection Association standards, and the codes and  
15 standards of the International Building Code 2009 and certain  
16 provisions from the International Building Code 2015 issued by  
17 the International Code Council as a minimum standard; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Industry enforces the

1 codes and standards required under 34 Pa. Code Pt. XIV; and

2 WHEREAS, The codes and standards are continuously updated  
3 with new editions as requirements are updated; and

4 WHEREAS, The IFC is published on a triennial basis, with the  
5 2018 edition being the most recent version; and

6 WHEREAS, Municipalities in this Commonwealth have been  
7 inconsistent in the adoption and enforcement of both current and  
8 outdated editions of the codes and standards required under 34  
9 Pa. Code Pt. XIV to the detriment of Commonwealth residents,  
10 businesses, governments and communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Fire protection and suppression equipment companies  
12 charged with the inspection, charging and refill of portable  
13 fire suppression equipment are often required to apply  
14 inconsistent regulatory and enforcement standards based on the  
15 location of the equipment being inspected; and

16 WHEREAS, The adoption of varying standards and editions of  
17 fire codes has led to discrepancies in requirements and  
18 enforcement between municipalities across this Commonwealth;  
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
21 Department of Labor and Industry to conduct a study of the fire  
22 codes and standards adopted and enforced by each municipality in  
23 this Commonwealth; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the municipalities in this Commonwealth be  
25 directed to cooperate with the Department of Labor and Industry  
26 in conducting the study; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That, in furtherance of the study, the Department  
28 of Labor and Industry determine, at a minimum, the fire codes  
29 and standards adopted and enforced by each municipality in this  
30 Commonwealth and the discrepancies, if any, among them; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor and Industry prepare  
3 and submit a written report to the House of Representatives; and  
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor and Industry publish  
6 the report on the department's publicly accessible Internet  
7 website and distribute the report to the majority chairperson  
8 and minority chairperson of the Senate, the majority chairperson  
9 and minority chairperson of the House of Representatives, the  
10 majority chairperson and minority chairperson of the Labor and  
11 Industry Committee of the Senate, the majority chairperson and  
12 minority chairperson of the Labor and Industry Committee in the  
13 House of Representatives, the majority chairperson and minority  
14 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness  
15 Committee of the Senate and the majority chairperson and  
16 minority chairperson of Veterans Affairs and Emergency  
17 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives; and be  
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Veterans Affairs and Emergency  
20 Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the Veterans Affairs  
21 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of  
22 Representatives, upon receipt of the report, may conduct at  
23 least four geographically dispersed public input hearings to  
24 receive policy recommendations for the adoption of uniform fire  
25 code and enforcement standards throughout this Commonwealth.