

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1144 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, HENNESSEY, READSHAW, BIZZARRO, QUIGLEY,
KINSEY, BURNS, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, SONNEY, DUSH,
SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, DRISCOLL, COX, YOUNGBLOOD, BOBACK,
MILLARD, MARSICO, DALEY, BARRAR, DIGIROLAMO, MALONEY,
J. HARRIS, J. MCNEILL, B. O'NEILL, MULLERY, GOODMAN, KAUFER,
TOOHIL, EVERETT, SNYDER, KORTZ, SCHWEYER, JOZWIAK AND
DERMODY, OCTOBER 9, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 9, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the hard work and dedication of the first
2 responders, members of local law enforcement, emergency
3 management agencies, utility workers and township and county
4 officials who responded to the large-scale emergency
5 situation that took place in Wilkes-Barre on June 13, 2018,
6 as a result of a category EF2 tornado.

7 WHEREAS, On the evening of June 13, 2018, a tornado warning
8 was issued to the general public of Wilkes-Barre and the
9 surrounding areas; and

10 WHEREAS, At 9:55 p.m., approximately five minutes before the
11 tornado touched down, a "take shelter" text alert was
12 transmitted to local cell phone users; and

13 WHEREAS, According to the National Weather Service, a
14 category EF2 tornado with wind speeds in excess of 130 miles per
15 hour struck the Mundy Street commercial district in Wilkes-Barre
16 Township at approximately 10 p.m.; and

17 WHEREAS, Once on the ground, the tornado traveled for nearly

1 three quarters of a mile during a five-minute period; and

2 WHEREAS, According to a local news report, the path of the
3 tornado was evident since the tornado left a trail of
4 destruction in which roofs were blown off of commercial retail
5 establishments and restaurants, while the windshields of new
6 vehicles were severely damaged at a local dealership; and

7 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, some of the area's buildings and
8 properties sustained extensive damage, and nearly 25 utility
9 poles were knocked down or damaged, leading to power outages and
10 dangerous conditions for bystanders and first responders; and

11 WHEREAS, Although six people sustained minor injuries, an
12 official for the American Red Cross stated that the area was
13 fortunate in that, had the storm happened earlier in the day
14 during rush hour, the damage and injuries endured could have
15 been significantly worse; and

16 WHEREAS, As soon as the tornado passed, first responders,
17 members of local law enforcement, emergency management agencies
18 and township and county officials acted quickly to secure a
19 local retail establishment where firearms and ammunition are
20 sold; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition, these individuals evacuated animals
22 from a local pet store that was severely damaged by the tornado,
23 ensuring that the animals were properly cared for and secured
24 during the subsequent cleanup; and

25 WHEREAS, First responders and utility workers on the scene
26 were placed in additional danger when having to secure an area
27 and evacuate individuals in the immediate vicinity due to the
28 unexpected venting of a 1,000-gallon propane tank that had been
29 damaged by the tornado; and

30 WHEREAS, In the days following the tornado, members of the

1 Pennsylvania Keystone Incident Management Team and the Luzerne
2 County Emergency Management Agency worked diligently to inspect
3 all commercial buildings in the immediate area of the tornado's
4 path to determine if the structures were safe to reopen,
5 required repairs or needed to be demolished; and

6 WHEREAS, The hard work and quick response by the community's
7 first responders, members of local law enforcement, emergency
8 management agencies and township and county officials helped to
9 ensure the health and safety of residents in Wilkes-Barre and
10 the surrounding areas; and

11 WHEREAS, This hard work and quick response also allowed the
12 Mundy Street commercial district in Wilkes-Barre Township to be
13 successfully restored to its normal operations in a timely
14 manner; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
16 hard work and dedication of the first responders, members of
17 local law enforcement, emergency management agencies, utility
18 workers and township and county officials who responded to the
19 large-scale emergency situation that took place in Wilkes-Barre
20 on June 13, 2018, as a result of a category EF2 tornado.