

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 6

Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, COSTA, BAKER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA,
TARTAGLIONE, WARD, YAW, BREWSTER, KILLION, RAFFERTY, AUMENT,
BARTOLOTTA, BOSCOLA, BROWNE, WAGNER AND STEFANO,
JANUARY 23, 2017

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED,
MARCH 22, 2017

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a special bipartisan, bicameral legislative
2 commission to recommend improvements to the delivery of
3 emergency services in this Commonwealth and develop and
4 promote legislation in furtherance of its recommendations.

5 WHEREAS, The citizens of this Commonwealth benefit daily from
6 the services, knowledge and skills of municipal emergency
7 service providers and volunteer emergency service providers who
8 routinely place the safety and well-being of others over their
9 own; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that the delivery of emergency
11 services in this Commonwealth, particularly through the use of
12 volunteer fire companies and volunteer emergency services,
13 effectively saves the people of this Commonwealth billions of
14 dollars and countless lives every year; and

15 WHEREAS, The emergency services in this Commonwealth are
16 being tasked to provide even greater levels of service with very

1 limited resources; and

2 WHEREAS, On September 29, 2002, the Pennsylvania Emergency
3 Management Agency, in consultation with the Fire and Emergency
4 Services Task Force, presented "A Study of Volunteer Fire and
5 Emergency Medical Services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,"
6 to the General Assembly in accordance with the act of June 29,
7 2002 (P.L.559, No.89), which made recommendations on various
8 long-term initiatives to improve the delivery of emergency
9 services in this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, On November 30, 2004, a special commission
11 established in Senate Resolution No. 60 (2003) issued its report
12 along with 23 recommendations to provide direct and indirect
13 assistance for the purpose of improving the delivery of
14 emergency services in this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, In September 2013, the Legislative Budget and
16 Finance Commission along with the Joint State Government
17 Commission issued a performance audit of the Emergency Medical
18 Services Operating Fund pursuant to House Resolution No. 315
19 (2012); and

20 WHEREAS, These reports took into consideration every major
21 study of fire and emergency services in this Commonwealth over
22 the prior 40 years and updated those findings to better reflect
23 the current needs of our emergency services; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
25 General Assembly establish a special bipartisan, bicameral
26 legislative commission to recommend improvements to the delivery
27 of emergency services in this Commonwealth and develop and
28 promote legislation in furtherance of its recommendations; and
29 be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following

1 members:

2 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
3 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
4 Senate or designees.

5 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
6 Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the
7 House of Representatives or designees.

8 (3) The two co-chairs of the Firefighter and Emergency
9 Services Caucus in the Senate or designees.

10 (4) The two co-chairs of the Firefighter and Emergency
11 Services Caucus in the House of Representatives or designees.

12 (5) The State Fire Commissioner or a designee.

13 (6) The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical
14 Services of the Department of Health or a designee.

15 (7) The president of the County Commissioners
16 Association of Pennsylvania or a designee.

17 (8) The president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League
18 or a designee.

19 (9) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
20 of Boroughs or a designee.

21 (10) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
22 of Township Commissioners or a designee.

23 (11) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
24 of Township Supervisors or a designee.

25 (12) The president of the Pennsylvania Council of
26 Governments or a designee.

27 (13) The president of the Pennsylvania Fire and
28 Emergency Services Institute or a designee.

29 (14) The president of the Firemen's Association of the
30 State of Pennsylvania or a designee.

1 (15) Four members of a county firemen's association, one
2 each from a county in the west, central, east and southeast
3 regions of this Commonwealth.

4 (16) The president of the Pennsylvania Professional
5 Firefighters Association or a designee.

6 (17) The president of the Pennsylvania Career Fire
7 Chiefs Association or a designee.

8 (18) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of
9 Hazardous Materials Technicians or a designee.

10 (19) Two fire chiefs of volunteer fire companies in
11 Pennsylvania, one of whom shall be selected by the President
12 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected
13 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

14 (20) Two fire chiefs of municipal fire companies in
15 Pennsylvania, one of whom shall be selected by the President
16 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected
17 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

18 (21) The president of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health
19 Services Council or a designee.

20 (22) The president of the Ambulance Association of
21 Pennsylvania or a designee.

22 (23) ~~Seven~~ EIGHT fire or emergency medical services <--
23 members at large, four of whom shall be selected by the
24 President pro tempore of the Senate and ~~three~~ FOUR of whom <--
25 shall be selected by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives;

27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the commission elect a chair from its
29 membership; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop and recommend

1 legislation to improve the delivery of emergency services; and
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings, take
4 testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems
5 necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Commission
7 provide staff support and assist with the final report; and be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That the commission make a final report of all
10 legislative recommendations by June 30, 2018, WHICH SHALL BE <--
11 SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
12 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE
13 CHAIRPERSON OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
14 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission shall serve
16 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary
17 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
18 duties; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission
20 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of
21 Representatives. The approval of the chairperson and minority
22 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
23 Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority
24 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
25 Committee of the House of Representatives, by action of a
26 majority of members of the committees, shall be required to
27 preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission which will
28 entail the expenditure of State funds and shall also be required
29 to approve all expenditures, including expense reimbursement
30 requests of commission members, prior to payment.