A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DELIVERY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOP AND PROMOTE LEGISLATION IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

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

WHEREAS, The emergency services in this Commonwealth are being tasked to provide even greater levels of service with very
limited resources; and

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

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

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

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

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

be it further

RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following...
members:
    (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate or designees.
    (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives or designees.
    (3) The two co-chairs of the Firefighter and Emergency Services Caucus in the Senate or designees.
    (4) The two co-chairs of the Firefighter and Emergency Services Caucus in the House of Representatives or designees.
    (5) The State Fire Commissioner or a designee.
    (6) The Director of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Health or a designee.
    (7) The president of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania or a designee.
    (8) The president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League or a designee.
    (9) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs or a designee.
    (10) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners or a designee.
    (11) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors or a designee.
    (12) The president of the Pennsylvania Council of Governments or a designee.
    (13) The president of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute or a designee.
    (14) The president of the Firemen's Association of the State of Pennsylvania or a designee.
Four members of a county firemen's association, one each from a county in the west, central, east and southeast regions of this Commonwealth.

The president of the Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association or a designee.

The president of the Pennsylvania Career Fire Chiefs Association or a designee.

The president of the Pennsylvania Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians or a designee.

Two fire chiefs of volunteer fire companies in Pennsylvania, one of whom shall be selected by the President pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Two fire chiefs of municipal fire companies in Pennsylvania, one of whom shall be selected by the President pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The president of the Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council or a designee.

The president of the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania or a designee.

Seven fire or emergency medical services members at large, four of whom shall be selected by the President pro tempore of the Senate and three of whom shall be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop and recommend

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legislation to improve the delivery of emergency services; and
be it further
RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings, take
testimony and make its investigations at such places as it deems
necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Commission
provide staff support and assist with the final report; and be
it further
RESOLVED, That the commission make a final report of all
legislative recommendations by June 30, 2018, WHICH SHALL BE
submitted to the Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and
Emergency Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the
Chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
Committee of the House of Representatives; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the members of the commission shall serve
without compensation but shall be reimbursed for all necessary
and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
duties; and be it further
RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission
be equally divided between the Senate and the House of
Representatives. The approval of the chairperson and minority
chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and minority
chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
Committee of the House of Representatives, by action of a
majority of members of the committees, shall be required to
preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission which will
entail the expenditure of State funds and shall also be required
to approve all expenditures, including expense reimbursement
requests of commission members, prior to payment.