
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 219 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, DONATUCCI, SOLOMON, RABB, SCHLOSSBERG,
T. DAVIS, LONGIETTI, MURT, INNAMORATO, KINSEY, SHUSTERMAN,
O'MARA, FREEMAN, KENYATTA, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, HOWARD,
MADDEN AND CIRESI, APRIL 11, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
APRIL 11, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study of the feasibility of requiring food waste recycling
3 for businesses and individuals based on the Commonwealth's
4 current infrastructure.

5 WHEREAS, Food waste is defined as a decrease of food in
6 stages of the supply chain intended for human consumption; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture
8 estimates that 30% to 40% of the food supply in the United
9 States is wasted; and

10 WHEREAS, The amount of food wasted every year is
11 approximately 133 billion pounds, representing roughly 1,249
12 calories per person, per day; and

13 WHEREAS, Americans throw away approximately \$161 billion in
14 food every year or roughly \$1,500 for a family of four,
15 including food at retailers, restaurants and at home; and

16 WHEREAS, Food waste accounts for approximately 20% of
17 landfill weight at municipal landfills; and

1 WHEREAS, Methane is released when food breaks down in
2 landfills, which is a greenhouse gas 21 times more powerful than
3 carbon dioxide; and

4 WHEREAS, Food recycling methods like composting or anaerobic
5 digestion can help in reducing the harmful impacts of food
6 waste; and

7 WHEREAS, Composting can turn what would ordinarily be food
8 waste into mulch for trees and shrubs or mixed in as topsoil,
9 helping with water retention and providing valuable nutrients
10 for plant life; and

11 WHEREAS, Anaerobic digestion, which is the method of
12 controlling the breakdown of food waste by micro-organisms,
13 releases a biogas from which methane can be extracted and used
14 to power engines, run alternative fuel vehicles and supply homes
15 and businesses through natural gas pipelines; and

16 WHEREAS, Food waste being repurposed and recycled for other
17 uses has both positive environmental and economic impacts and
18 should be studied; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
20 State Government Commission to conduct a study of the
21 feasibility of requiring food waste recycling by businesses and
22 individuals within this Commonwealth given the current
23 infrastructure; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission provide
25 recommendations necessary or desirable for ways to improve
26 access to food waste recycling; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
28 report of the result of the study and recommendations evaluating
29 the Commonwealth's infrastructure in regard to access to food
30 waste recycling and potential improvements that can be made and

- 1 file the report with the House of Representatives no later than
- 2 one year after adoption of this resolution.