
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 670 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, YOUNGBLOOD, WEBSTER, SAMUELSON, FREEMAN,
FRANKEL, DeLUCA, LONGIETTI, RAVENSTAHL, SOLOMON, SHUSTERMAN,
ZABEL, HILL-EVANS, SAPPEY, ISAACSON, ULLMAN, KIM, WILLIAMS,
McNEILL AND KAUFER, JANUARY 17, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
JANUARY 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study and issue a report on the feasibility of
3 establishing conservation corridors in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Outdoor recreation is among our nation's largest
5 economic sectors; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is a leader in outdoor recreation
7 consumer spending, a critical component of our tourism industry;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania hosts a magnificent diversity of plants
10 and wildlife and a great array of ecosystems and preserving and
11 connecting high-quality habitats for plants and wildlife can
12 create habitat strongholds so species can continue to thrive as
13 they face stressors and changing environmental conditions; and

14 WHEREAS, Preservation of this Commonwealth's natural
15 resources is necessary for our tourism industry to continue to
16 expand and thrive; and

17 WHEREAS, It is recognized as a public good that habitat

1 connectivity for wildlife be maintained and expanded; and

2 WHEREAS, The ecological benefits of habitat connectivity have
3 been measured and greater species richness, increased species
4 and wider dispersal of animals and plants lead to more
5 genetically diverse and robust populations; and

6 WHEREAS, Habitat connectivity can be fostered by conservation
7 corridors; and

8 WHEREAS, A conservation corridor is a habitat linkage that
9 joins two or more areas of wildlife habitat, allowing for fish
10 passage or the movement of wildlife from one area to another;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Commonwealth to encourage,
13 wherever feasible and practical, voluntary steps to protect the
14 functioning of conservation corridors through various means; and

15 WHEREAS, Connectivity between wildlife habitats is important
16 to the long-term viability of this Commonwealth's biodiversity;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Preserving and connecting high-quality habitat for
19 wildlife can create habitat strongholds; and

20 WHEREAS, A habitat stronghold is a high-quality habitat where
21 wildlife populations are strong and diverse, highly functioning
22 and intact; and

23 WHEREAS, Increasingly, fragmented habitats threaten this
24 Commonwealth's wildlife species; and

25 WHEREAS, Understanding of the Commonwealth's habitat
26 connectivity status and potential would benefit from
27 consideration of all relevant data, including from Federal and
28 State agencies and surrounding states, nonprofit organizations,
29 universities and private landowners; and

30 WHEREAS, Conservation corridors in Pennsylvania are managed

1 by different Commonwealth commissions and departments; and

2 WHEREAS, Many State agencies, nonprofit organizations and
3 coalitions, as well as public-private partnerships that are
4 interested in advancing connectivity across this Commonwealth,
5 could benefit from a science-based understanding of current and
6 potential conservation corridors in this Commonwealth and
7 nonstate coalition partners can add value by helping to advance
8 the habitat connectivity goals of State agencies that seek to
9 advance conservation corridors; and

10 WHEREAS, A study that identifies and evaluates conservation
11 corridors would be beneficial to all wildlife and residents;
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
14 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and
15 issue a report on the feasibility of establishing conservation
16 corridors in this Commonwealth and make recommendations for
17 measures proposed or undertaken for the establishment of such
18 corridors; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the study:

20 (1) identify and examine the statutes, best practices
21 and proposed measures of other states to assist in the
22 establishment of conservation corridors in the Commonwealth;

23 (2) identify existing and needed conservation corridors,
24 including riparian corridors and potential crossings of
25 transportation arteries;

26 (3) include a study of the economic benefits of
27 conservation corridors attributed to increased opportunity
28 for outdoor recreation, tourism and ecosystem services,
29 including, but not limited to, clean water, flood protection,
30 air pollution removal, mineral resources and agriculture

1 products;

2 (4) include an economic impact analysis of the
3 establishment of conservation corridors in key areas on
4 wildlife-vehicle collisions and identify existing and needed
5 conservation corridors, including riparian corridors and
6 potential crossings of transportation arteries; and

7 (5) identify voluntary mechanisms, such as easements and
8 cooperative management agreements, that affect conservation
9 corridors;

10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
12 be authorized to consult with organizations that:

13 (1) protect wildlife and their habitats using science,
14 advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation measures;

15 (2) provide representation of the Commonwealth's 121
16 State parks and 2.2 million acres of forest land or the
17 interests of private landowners;

18 (3) integrate conservation and economic development in a
19 way that strengthens and inspires communities;

20 (4) collect data on wildlife-vehicle collisions; or

21 (5) have knowledge of relevant issues;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
24 be authorized to consult surrounding states and private
25 landowners that have knowledge of relevant issues; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
28 prepare a report of its findings and recommendations of the
29 study and submit the report to the Secretary of the Senate and
30 the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives no later than

1 November 30, 2020.