
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 33 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KILLION, DINNIMAN, AUMENT, COSTA, FOLMER, HAYWOOD,
KEARNEY AND SCHWANK, MARCH 13, 2019

REFERRED TO CONSUMER PROTECTION AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE,
MARCH 13, 2019

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a special bipartisan, bicameral legislative
2 commission to recommend safety, oversight and interagency
3 coordination improvements for the transport of oil, natural
4 gas and other hazardous liquids through pipelines in this
5 Commonwealth and develop and promote legislation in
6 furtherance of the commission's recommendations.

7 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth have a right to
8 safe communities and benefit from regulations and laws which are
9 established to enhance their safety and protect the environment;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Natural gas and oil extraction have increased
12 dramatically over the last decade in this Commonwealth,
13 resulting in the construction of new pipeline infrastructure to
14 transport hazardous liquids, gases and byproducts in large
15 quantities through the most sensitive areas of this
16 Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, While the construction and operation of any pipeline
18 carries some measure of risk, the public safety and
19 environmental risks associated with the construction and

1 transport of volatile chemicals are compounded dramatically when
2 high-volume pipelines operating under high pressure are situated
3 in close proximity to homes, schools and population centers; and

4 WHEREAS, The construction of pipelines throughout this
5 Commonwealth has resulted in hundreds of environmental and
6 safety violations that have negatively impacted the residents of
7 this Commonwealth, resulting in the contamination of private
8 wells and public waterways and demonstrating the need for
9 exploring measures that will result in improved management,
10 increased safety and more comprehensive oversight of pipeline
11 construction and operation; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to the disposition provided by the
13 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, it is imperative that
14 consumer complaints are reviewed and rectified in an efficient
15 manner; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
17 General Assembly establish a special bipartisan, bicameral
18 legislative commission to recommend improvements to the process
19 of regulating pipeline construction and operation in this
20 Commonwealth and develop and promote legislation in furtherance
21 of the commission's recommendations; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following
23 members:

24 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
25 Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of
26 the Senate or designees.

27 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
28 Consumer Affairs Committee and the Professional Licensure
29 Committee of the House of Representatives or designees.

30 (3) The Chief Counsel of the Law Bureau of the

1 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or a designee.

2 (4) The Director of the Bureau of Investigation and
3 Enforcement of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or
4 a designee.

5 (5) The Director of the Environmental Emergency Response
6 Program of the Department of Environmental Protection or a
7 designee.

8 (6) The Deputy Secretary for Oil and Gas Management of
9 the Department of Environmental Protection or a designee.

10 (7) The president of the Marcellus Shale Coalition or a
11 designee.

12 (8) The executive director of the Pipeline Safety
13 Coalition or a designee.

14 (9) The president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League
15 or a designee.

16 (10) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
17 of Boroughs or a designee.

18 (11) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
19 of Township Commissioners or a designee.

20 (12) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
21 of Township Supervisors or a designee.

22 (13) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of
23 Hazardous Materials Technicians or a designee.

24 (14) Two fire chiefs of volunteer fire companies in this
25 Commonwealth, one of whom shall be selected by the President
26 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected
27 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

28 (15) Two fire chiefs of municipal fire companies in this
29 Commonwealth, one of whom shall be selected by the President
30 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected

1 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

2 (16) Four fire or emergency medical services members at-
3 large, two of whom shall be selected by the President pro
4 tempore of the Senate and two of whom shall be selected by
5 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

6 (17) The Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency
7 Management Agency or a designee.

8 (18) The State Fire Commissioner or a designee.

9 (19) The Executive Director of the County Commissioners
10 Association of Pennsylvania or a designee.

11 (20) The President of the Pennsylvania Independent Oil
12 and Gas Association or a designee;

13 and be it further

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

16 RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop and recommend
17 legislation to improve the safety, oversight and interagency
18 coordination for pipelines in this Commonwealth; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the commission may utilize the annual reports
21 regarding informal consumer complaints produced by the
22 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission under 66 Pa.C.S. § 308.1
23 (relating to consumer protection and information) in developing
24 the legislation; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings and take
26 testimony at such places as the commission deems necessary in
27 this Commonwealth; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
29 provide staff support to the commission and assist with the
30 final report; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the commission make a final report of all
2 legislative recommendations by July 1, 2020, which shall be
3 submitted to the chairperson of the Consumer Protection and
4 Professional Licensure Committee of the Senate and the
5 chairpersons of the Consumer Affairs Committee and the
6 Professional Licensure Committee of the House of
7 Representatives; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission shall serve
9 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary
10 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
11 duties; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission
13 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of
14 Representatives; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the approval of the chairperson and minority
16 chairperson of the Consumer Protection Committee of the Senate
17 and the chairperson and minority chairperson of the Consumer
18 Affairs Committee and the Professional Licensure Committee of
19 the House of Representatives, by action of a majority of members
20 of the committees, shall be required to preauthorize all
21 proposed actions of the commission that will entail the
22 expenditure of State funds and shall also be required to approve
23 all expenditures, including expense reimbursement requests of
24 commission members, prior to payment.