
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 190 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY LEACH AND HUGHES, AUGUST 7, 2019

REFERRED TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS, AUGUST 7, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish a
2 bipartisan task force and an advisory committee to study this
3 Commonwealth's food waste problem, analyze potential
4 solutions and report their findings and recommendations to
5 the Senate.

6 WHEREAS, Forty percent of all food produced in the United
7 States is discarded, which amounts to an average of more than
8 62.5 million tons of wasted food each year; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 10 million tons of this waste is left
10 unharvested on farms, while 52 million tons of food ends up in
11 landfills; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 1.7 million Pennsylvanians, or 13% of
13 this Commonwealth's population, experience food insecurity; and

14 WHEREAS, Reducing food waste by 15% could reduce food
15 insecurity in our Commonwealth by half; and

16 WHEREAS, Redirecting food waste to biofuel technologies will
17 create jobs, energy and revenue for farms, municipalities,
18 landfills and businesses; and

19 WHEREAS, Food waste utilizes more of our landfill capacity
20 than any other type of waste; and

1 WHEREAS, In September 2017 the Harvard Food Law and Policy
2 Clinic published a report on Pennsylvania's food waste problem
3 and possible solutions called *Moving Food Waste Forward: Policy*
4 *Recommendations for Next Steps in Pennsylvania*; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
6 Commission to establish a bipartisan task force of four members
7 of the Senate to conduct a comprehensive study on the magnitude
8 of this Commonwealth's food waste problem and solutions to
9 address this problem; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore of the Senate
11 appoint two members of the task force and the Minority Leader of
12 the Senate appoint two members of the task force; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission oversee
15 the establishment of an advisory committee to assist the task
16 force in conducting the study and making recommendations; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee be comprised of
19 approximately 30 members and include people who are most likely
20 to make useful and insightful contributions, such as
21 representatives of hunger relief organizations, members of
22 academia, recycling and waste management officials, agriculture
23 stakeholders, food manufacturers, restaurant industry personnel,
24 transportation industry leaders and food waste experts; and be
25 it further

26 RESOLVED, That the task force, with the assistance of the
27 advisory committee, conduct a study that includes the following
28 topics:

- 29 (1) the magnitude of Pennsylvania's food waste problem;
30 (2) the magnitude of Pennsylvania's hunger problem;

1 (3) the environmental costs associated with
2 Pennsylvania's food waste problem;

3 (4) the feasibility and effectiveness of implementing
4 the recommendations from the Harvard Law School Food Law and
5 Policy Clinic's 2017 report;

6 (5) a survey of Federal and State laws and initiatives
7 that reduce food waste; and

8 (6) an analysis of the effect of the Agriculture
9 Improvement Act of 2018, enacted by the Congress of the
10 United States in 2018, on Pennsylvania's food waste problem;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the task force and advisory committee hold
13 public hearings as necessary to receive oral and written
14 testimony about any of the subjects of the study; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the task force and advisory committee report
17 their findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than
18 two years after the date this resolution is adopted.