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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 285 Session of  
2022

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INTRODUCED BY GORDNER, FONTANA, KEARNEY, LANGERHOLC, KANE,  
ARGALL, MENSCH, J. WARD, BREWSTER AND PITTMAN, MAY 3, 2022

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY 3, 2022

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct an  
2 assessment and analysis of public and private recycling  
3 infrastructure and operations across the Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Investment in a Statewide recycling strategy through  
5 programs that encourage uniform, life-cycle-focused product  
6 stewardship efforts at the producer level is essential; and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a vibrant and robust economy  
8 related to the production of packaging, which supports thousands  
9 of good-paying jobs across our communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Many, if not all, of these products can be recycled  
11 at the end of their life, decreasing our collective dependence  
12 on virgin materials and increasing the consumption of recycled  
13 materials, ideally moderating environmental impacts in the  
14 process; and

15 WHEREAS, Operations necessary to collect, sort and process  
16 some of these materials lag behind the volume of materials  
17 consumers use, resulting in their unfortunate diversion to  
18 landfills; and

1 WHEREAS, Increased investment in recycling infrastructure  
2 assists in reversing the trend toward using landfills; and

3 WHEREAS, Education of consumers on recycling and new  
4 recycling operations create good-paying jobs and promote  
5 increased circularity in the interest of sustainability;  
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
8 Commission to conduct an assessment and analysis of public and  
9 private recycling infrastructure and operations across the  
10 Commonwealth, including:

11 (1) consulting with representatives from a diverse array  
12 of backgrounds, including, but not limited to, State agency  
13 officials, nongovernmental organizations and industry experts  
14 from both the recycling and manufacturing communities;

15 (2) a review of recycling infrastructure investment  
16 strategies adopted by other states, including public-private  
17 partnerships, industry-managed product collection strategies  
18 and other legislative approaches to the management of  
19 plastics and other recyclable products, particularly  
20 packaging; and

21 (3) providing suggestions for statutory provisions to  
22 promote environmental stewardship across this Commonwealth  
23 through public policy while avoiding unintended consequences  
24 experienced by other jurisdictions;

25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
27 report of its findings, along with any statutory or regulatory  
28 recommendations, to the General Assembly within seven months of  
29 the adoption of this resolution.