

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 285 Session of 2022

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

AS AMENDED, JUNE 21, 2022

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, COUNTY OFFICIALS, nongovernmental organizations <--
14 and industry experts from both the recycling and
15 manufacturing communities;

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

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

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
28 report of its findings, along with any statutory or regulatory
29 recommendations, to the General Assembly within 12 months of the
30 adoption of this resolution.