
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 224 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY RABB, MALAGARI, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, KHAN
AND OTTEN, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study and establish an advisory committee to review and
3 analyze the opportunities for and benefits of agrivoltaic
4 farming systems in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, In recent years, Pennsylvania farmers have faced a
6 number of challenges, including the COVID pandemic and rising
7 input costs, such as rising costs for fertilizer; and

8 WHEREAS, On-farm solar, or agrivoltaic farming, offers
9 farmers and rural communities a consistent, long-term stream of
10 income and can boost agricultural productivity; and

11 WHEREAS, Agrivoltaic farming is the siting of elevated solar
12 panels above crops which can continue to be cultivated; and

13 WHEREAS, In some variations, agrivoltaic farming also
14 includes siting of elevated solar panels such that livestock may
15 graze among and around the solar panels; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania lost 6,000 farms between 2012 and 2017;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Dual use of agricultural land with agrivoltaic
19 farming can be a farmland preservation tool; and

1 WHEREAS, Consumption of renewable energy in the United States
2 hit a record high in 2020; and

3 WHEREAS, Renewable energy only accounts for 13% of total
4 United States energy production; and

5 WHEREAS, Solar energy may need to use 0.5% of United States
6 surface area to meet the 2050 renewable energy goals; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
8 Agriculture, agrivoltaic farming makes agriculture and solar
9 energy production complement each other rather than contrast;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Several profitable crops fare better, or as well,
12 when grown beneath solar panels; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania legislators have an obligation to
14 assist struggling farmers in the face of challenges feeding our
15 communities; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
17 State Government Commission to conduct a study and establish an
18 advisory committee to review and analyze the opportunities for
19 and benefits of agrivoltaic farming systems in this
20 Commonwealth; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee be comprised of the
22 following members:

- 23 (1) The Secretary of Agriculture, or a designee.
- 24 (2) A member of the Center for Rural Pennsylvania.
- 25 (3) A representative of an organization that advocates
26 for use of agrivoltaic technology.
- 27 (4) A representative of Penn State College of
28 Agricultural Sciences.
- 29 (5) Other individuals or representatives from
30 organizations selected by the Joint State Government

1 Commission;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
4 conducting the study, include findings and recommendations
5 regarding:

6 (1) A comprehensive accounting of which State, county
7 and local agencies utilize or would benefit from agrivoltaic
8 farming systems.

9 (2) Legislative solutions to boost agricultural
10 productivity.

11 (3) Suggestions to stabilize rising input costs for
12 farmers.

13 (4) Methods to facilitate the complementary nature of
14 agrivoltaic farming and solar energy production;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
17 report of its findings and recommendations to the House of
18 Representatives no later than one year from the adoption of this
19 resolution.