

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 45 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, PENNYCUICK, BREWSTER AND STEFANO,
FEBRUARY 24, 2023

REFERRED TO URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, FEBRUARY 24, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Department of Housing and Urban
2 Development to address the process of porting.

3 WHEREAS, Porting is a process in the Housing Choice Voucher
4 Program that allows a voucher recipient to transfer the
5 recipient's voucher to another jurisdiction; and

6 WHEREAS, Porting was intended to allow individuals to freely
7 move across the United States as their life required them to and
8 not lose their access to housing; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals are currently abusing this process by
10 moving to jurisdictions with short waiting lists to access
11 vouchers, only to use those vouchers to port back to areas with
12 long waiting lists and move ahead of everyone on the waiting
13 list; and

14 WHEREAS, By way of illustration, individuals are using the
15 Johnstown Housing Authority to bypass the Philadelphia Housing
16 Authority's waiting list by moving to Johnstown and obtaining a
17 voucher merely to port back to Philadelphia; and

18 WHEREAS, When individuals port from one jurisdiction to

1 another the receiving jurisdiction can absorb the voucher or
2 continue to hold the initial housing authority responsible for
3 the costs of the voucher; and

4 WHEREAS, The abuse of the porting process has caused
5 significant problems within authorities with short waiting
6 lists; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2019, the Johnstown Housing Authority was
8 responsible for on average 143 families through outgoing porting
9 costing the authority \$1,520,457; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2020, the Johnstown Housing Authority was
11 responsible for on average 141 families through outgoing porting
12 costing the authority \$1,791,360; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2021, the Johnstown Housing Authority was
14 responsible for on average 41 families through outgoing porting
15 costing the authority \$789,297 after the Philadelphia Housing
16 Authority decided to absorb 62 families and the Delaware County
17 Housing Authority absorbed the cost for 73 families; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2022, the Philadelphia Housing Authority decided
19 to reverse its decision to absorb families from the Johnstown
20 Housing Authority resulting in the Johnstown Housing Authority
21 being forced to pay the Philadelphia Housing Authority for those
22 who ported out of the Johnstown Housing Authority; and

23 WHEREAS, Porting does not just negatively affect a housing
24 authority; and

25 WHEREAS, The Greater Johnstown School District is a district
26 of 3,000 students and approximately 619 students have entered or
27 left the school district in the current academic year; and

28 WHEREAS, This constant transition does not just disrupt the
29 education of those 619 students, but all students are burdened
30 by constant changes to the school environment; and

1 WHEREAS, In the 2018-2019 academic year, the Greater
2 Johnstown School District saw 751 students enter or leave the
3 school district; and

4 WHEREAS, In the 2019-2020 academic year, the Greater
5 Johnstown School District saw 805 students enter or leave the
6 school district; and

7 WHEREAS, In the 2020-2021 academic year, the Greater
8 Johnstown School District saw 380 students enter or leave the
9 school district; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 2021-2022 academic year, the Greater
11 Johnstown School District saw 591 students enter or leave the
12 school district; and

13 WHEREAS, The porting process has resulted in many of the
14 needs, challenges and financial strain on resources in
15 communities such as Cambria County; and

16 WHEREAS, Local health and human service providers, as well as
17 the Greater Johnstown School District, absorb the financial
18 burden of this phenomenon due to the vast need of these high-
19 risk individuals moving for a temporary duration with few
20 belongings or community connections; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
22 urge the United States Department of Housing and Urban
23 Development to take action to address the abuse of the porting
24 process that has a detrimental effect on communities as outlined
25 in this resolution; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
27 all of the following:

28 (1) the United States Secretary of Housing and Urban
29 Development;

30 (2) the President pro tempore of the United States

1 Senate;
2 (3) the Speaker of the United States House of
3 Representatives;
4 (4) the chairperson of the Committee on Banking,
5 Housing, and Urban Affairs of the United States Senate;
6 (5) the chairperson of the Committee on Financial
7 Services of the United States House of Representatives; and
8 (6) each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.