
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 373 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY RAFFERTY, MCGARRIGLE, KILLION, FOLMER, COSTA,
SCHWANK, BREWSTER AND DINNIMAN, MAY 30, 2018

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MAY 30, 2018

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a special bipartisan, bicameral legislative
2 commission to recommend safety, oversight and interagency
3 coordination improvements for the transport of oil, natural
4 gas and other hazardous liquids through pipelines in this
5 Commonwealth and develop and promote legislation in
6 furtherance of its recommendations.

7 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth have a right to
8 safe communities and benefit from regulations and laws which are
9 established to enhance their safety and protect the environment;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Natural gas and oil extraction have increased
12 dramatically over the last decade in this Commonwealth,
13 resulting in the construction of new pipeline infrastructure to
14 transport hazardous liquids, gases and byproducts in large
15 quantities through the most sensitive areas of this
16 Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, While the construction and operation of any pipeline
18 carries some measure of risk, the public safety and
19 environmental risks associated with the construction and
20 transport of volatile chemicals are compounded dramatically when

1 high volume pipelines operating under high pressure are situated
2 in close proximity to homes, schools and population centers; and

3 WHEREAS, The construction of pipelines throughout this
4 Commonwealth has resulted in hundreds of environmental and
5 safety violations that have negatively impacted the residents of
6 this Commonwealth, resulting in the contamination of private
7 wells and public waterways and demonstrating the need for
8 exploring measures that will result in improved management,
9 increased safety and more comprehensive oversight of pipeline
10 construction and operation; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
12 General Assembly establish a special bipartisan, bicameral
13 legislative commission to recommend improvements to the process
14 of regulating pipeline construction and operation in this
15 Commonwealth and develop and promote legislation in furtherance
16 of its recommendations; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following
18 members:

19 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
20 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate or
21 designees.

22 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the
23 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House of
24 Representatives or designees.

25 (3) The Director of Regulatory Affairs of the
26 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or a designee.

27 (4) The Director of the Bureau of Investigations and
28 Enforcement of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or
29 a designee.

30 (5) The Director of the Environmental Emergency Response

1 Program of the Department of Environmental Protection or a
2 designee.

3 (6) The Deputy Secretary for Oil and Gas Management of
4 the Department of Environmental Protection or a designee.

5 (7) The president of the Marcellus Shale Coalition or a
6 designee.

7 (8) The executive director of the Pipeline Safety
8 Coalition or a designee.

9 (9) The president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League
10 or a designee.

11 (10) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
12 of Boroughs or a designee.

13 (11) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
14 of Township Commissioners or a designee.

15 (12) The president of the Pennsylvania State Association
16 of Township Supervisors or a designee.

17 (13) The president of the Pennsylvania Association of
18 Hazardous Materials Technicians or a designee.

19 (14) Two fire chiefs of volunteer fire companies in this
20 Commonwealth, one of whom shall be selected by the President
21 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected
22 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

23 (15) Two fire chiefs of municipal fire companies in this
24 Commonwealth, one of whom shall be selected by the President
25 pro tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be selected
26 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

27 (16) Four fire or emergency medical services members at-
28 large, two of whom shall be selected by the President pro
29 tempore of the Senate and two of whom shall be selected by
30 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the commission elect a chair from its
3 membership; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the commission shall develop and recommend
5 legislation to improve the safety, oversight and interagency
6 coordination for pipelines in this Commonwealth; and be it
7 further

8 RESOLVED, That the commission may hold hearings, take
9 testimony and make investigations at such places as it deems
10 necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
12 provide staff support to the commission and assist with the
13 final report; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the commission make a final report of all
15 legislative recommendations by January 1, 2019, which shall be
16 submitted to the chairperson of the Environmental Resources and
17 Energy Committee of the Senate and the chairperson of the
18 Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House of
19 Representatives; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission shall serve
21 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all necessary
22 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
23 duties; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission
25 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of
26 Representatives; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the approval of the chairperson and minority
28 chairperson of the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
29 of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of
30 the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee of the House of

1 Representatives, by action of a majority of members of the
2 committees, shall be required to preauthorize all proposed
3 actions of the commission which will entail the expenditure of
4 State funds and shall also be required to approve all
5 expenditures, including expense reimbursement requests of
6 commission members, prior to payment.