
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 231 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BARRAR, SAINATO, BOBACK, DeLUCA, JAMES, MURT,
READSHAW AND MOUL, APRIL 15, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Federal Government to prioritize and consider the
2 need for resilient infrastructure to reduce risks and meet
3 the country's economic, environmental and social needs.

4 WHEREAS, Our nation's infrastructure faces increasing
5 vulnerability due to the impacts of severe weather, rising
6 population and changing land-use patterns; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 2000, flood-related disasters have caused more
8 than \$841 billion in losses around the country; and

9 WHEREAS, Flooding in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the
10 single greatest cause of property loss due to natural disasters
11 and this Commonwealth's numerous rivers and creeks make
12 Pennsylvania one of the most flood-prone states in the nation;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Between 2000 and 2018, 21 Federal disasters and
15 emergencies were declared as a result of floods, hurricanes and
16 severe storms in Pennsylvania, requiring more than \$750 million
17 in total assistance from the United States Government; and

18 WHEREAS, The need to incorporate resilience into any

1 comprehensive infrastructure package is underscored by the
2 American Society of Civil Engineers' recent grade of D+ for the
3 nation's infrastructure, and an estimated \$4.6 trillion is
4 needed to repair key sectors of infrastructure across this
5 country; and

6 WHEREAS, Over 250 elected officials from across the United
7 States signed a Flood-Ready Infrastructure Statement of
8 Principles supporting resilient infrastructure that will:

9 (1) improve resiliency requirements for buildings and
10 infrastructure systems built before and after flood-related
11 catastrophes;

12 (2) enhance the use of natural defenses in planning and
13 preparedness; and

14 (3) reduce unsustainable development in high risk areas;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, More than 500 small to medium sized businesses from
17 across the country signed a letter to the Federal Government
18 calling for a modernized flood-ready standard for federally-
19 funded construction projects; and

20 WHEREAS, A bipartisan coalition of leading business groups,
21 labor unions and elected officials at all levels of government
22 continue to annually recognize the need for safer, stronger and
23 sustainable infrastructure; and

24 WHEREAS, Members of the Congress of the United States and the
25 current presidential administration have indicated that
26 addressing infrastructure will be a priority in the coming year,
27 especially as the nation prepares for the 2019 hurricane season;
28 therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
30 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Federal Government to

1 consider the need for resilient infrastructure to reduce risks
2 and meet the country's economic, environmental and social needs;
3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
5 the President of the United States, the presiding officers of
6 each house of Congress, the director of the Federal Emergency
7 Management Agency and the members of the Pennsylvania
8 Congressional Delegation.