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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 55 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY HUTCHINSON, SCARNATI, ARGALL, ALLOWAY, GREENLEAF,  
MENSCH, RAFFERTY, STEFANO, VULAKOVICH, WARD, WHITE AND WILEY,  
MARCH 31, 2015

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MARCH 31, 2015

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a forestry task force to study issues concerning  
2 the renewal and management of this Commonwealth's forests;  
3 providing for an advisory committee; and directing the Joint  
4 Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation  
5 Committee to provide administrative support to the task  
6 force.

7 WHEREAS, Seventeen million acres in Pennsylvania are forest  
8 land; and

9 WHEREAS, Forests provide numerous economic, recreational and  
10 environmental resources; and

11 WHEREAS, Sustainable forestry provides new management  
12 strategies for our forest resources and improves the health,  
13 quality and diversity of Pennsylvania's forests; and

14 WHEREAS, The new strategies will determine the future of  
15 forests in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, The forestry task force previously established by  
17 House Resolution No. 263, Printer's No. 4110 (1994), Senate  
18 Resolution No. 29, Printer's No. 720 (1997), House Resolution  
19 No. 13, Printer's No. 2113 (1999), Senate Resolution No. 81,

1 Printer's No. 1077 (2001) and House Resolution No. 256,  
2 Printer's No. 1510 (2003) has been helpful to the General  
3 Assembly and instrumental in addressing issues facing the  
4 forestry community; therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
6 General Assembly establish a forestry task force to be comprised  
7 of two members of the Senate, one appointed by the President pro  
8 tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader  
9 of the Senate, two members of the House of Representatives, one  
10 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one  
11 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
12 Representatives, and the members of the forestry task force  
13 shall choose a chairman from their number; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the forestry task force conduct a  
15 comprehensive study of and investigate the following:

16           (1) the implications of the Department of Conservation  
17 and Natural Resources' revised State Forest Resource  
18 Management Plan;

19           (2) the impact of pests and invasive species on  
20 Pennsylvania's forestry industry as well as the impact to  
21 overall forest health;

22           (3) the regulatory relationship between the State's  
23 forestry industry, local governments and county conservation  
24 districts; and

25           (4) the decline in qualified timber harvesters and other  
26 related occupations;

27 and be it further

28       RESOLVED, That the forestry task force hold hearings, take  
29 testimony and make its investigations at such places within this  
30 Commonwealth as it deems necessary; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That an advisory committee be created by the  
2 forestry task force to assist in developing facts and  
3 recommendations concerning the renewal and management of forests  
4 in this Commonwealth and that the advisory committee be composed  
5 of representatives of the following entities:

6           (1) Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,  
7 Bureau of Forestry;

8           (2) Department of Agriculture, Hardwoods Development  
9 Council;

10          (3) Pennsylvania Game Commission;

11          (4) The Pennsylvania State University, School of Forest  
12 Resources and Cooperative Extension Service; and

13          (5) United States Forest Service;

14 and be it further

15       RESOLVED, That the advisory committee have one representative  
16 from each of five business organizations representing the forest  
17 products industry and one representative from up to three other  
18 organizations that the forestry task force deems appropriate to  
19 be represented; and be it further

20       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly direct the Joint  
21 Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation  
22 Committee to provide sufficient staff and other administrative  
23 support to the forestry task force; and be it further

24       RESOLVED, That the forestry task force prepare a report  
25 containing its findings and recommendations, together with any  
26 necessary legislation, and deliver it to the General Assembly as  
27 soon as possible.