
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 918 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY D. COSTA, READSHAW, THOMAS, KOTIK, KINSEY,
FRANKEL, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, RAVENSTAHL, KIRKLAND, COHEN,
WHITE, SACCONI, DeLUCA, McNEILL, P. COSTA, LUCAS, MIRABITO,
HENNESSEY, FARINA, MAHONEY, DiGIROLAMO, MILLARD, D. MILLER,
O'NEILL, SNYDER, ROSS, GINGRICH, MARSICO, McCARTER,
C. HARRIS, DEASY, GRELL, QUINN, YOUNGBLOOD, GROVE, MAJOR AND
MURT, JUNE 24, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 24, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Port Authority of
2 Allegheny County.

3 WHEREAS, Allegheny County has a history of public
4 transportation for over 150 years, including horse-drawn
5 carriages, streetcars, buses and inclines; and

6 WHEREAS, After World War II, the economic boom and increased
7 highway construction led to dwindling ridership due to the
8 increase in automobile ownership; and

9 WHEREAS, Pittsburgh was the home to the country's largest
10 streetcar system in the 1960s with about half of the streetcar
11 lines losing money or breaking even because fares were unable to
12 keep pace with rising costs; and

13 WHEREAS, The citizens of Allegheny County, recognizing the
14 need for a strong public transit system and faced with a
15 declining, fragmented system, petitioned for a countywide public

1 transportation system; and

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted legislation creating
3 the Port Authority of Allegheny County, which officially began
4 its functions on March 1, 1964, immediately consolidating 33
5 independent transportation companies into one system; and

6 WHEREAS, In the Port Authority of Allegheny County's first
7 full year of operation, ridership increased by nearly 10 million
8 as the Port Authority expanded existing routes and established
9 new routes; and

10 WHEREAS, The Port Authority of Allegheny County continued to
11 increase ridership and improve and expand its services
12 throughout the following decades, especially during the oil
13 crisis in 1980 when ridership peaked at 112 million due to
14 exponentially rising gasoline prices; and

15 WHEREAS, The Port Authority of Allegheny County continues to
16 modernize and adapt to new technologies and challenges,
17 including using hybrid buses and adding bicycle racks; and

18 WHEREAS, The Port Authority of Allegheny County also
19 preserves the area's rich history by maintaining the two
20 remaining inclines, the Duquesne and Monongahela Inclines, the
21 latter of which is the oldest, continuously operating incline in
22 the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, The Port Authority of Allegheny County offers
24 programs like the ACCESS program that helps senior citizens and
25 persons with disabilities utilize public transportation; and

26 WHEREAS, The Port Authority of Allegheny County offers free
27 and reduced fares for senior citizens, persons with
28 disabilities, students and others therefore ensuring access to
29 public transportation for all residents, regardless of age,
30 income or ability; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, the Port Authority of Allegheny County
2 continues to offer a variety of services and technologies that
3 help connect the greater community as it has for the past half
4 century; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
6 50th anniversary of the Port Authority of Allegheny County; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the Port
9 Authority of Allegheny County for the great role that it has
10 played in supporting the community and bringing its residents
11 together.