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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 174 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, CABELL, KRAJEWSKI, SCHMITT AND STAMBAUGH,  
JULY 7, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, JULY 7, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study and issue a report on the current status,  
3 management and implementation of mass or public transit in  
4 Pennsylvania's rural communities.

5 WHEREAS, Access to efficient and reliable transportation is  
6 essential for the economic, social and environmental well-being  
7 of all communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Rural communities in this Commonwealth often face  
9 unique challenges in providing adequate transportation options  
10 due to their dispersed populations, limited infrastructure and  
11 geographical constraints; and

12 WHEREAS, Both the legislative and the executive branches play  
13 a crucial role in shaping the transportation landscape of this  
14 Commonwealth and have the responsibility to ensure equitable  
15 access to transportation services for all residents, including  
16 residents in rural areas; and

17 WHEREAS, Investing in and improving mass or public transit  
18 systems in rural communities can enhance mobility, stimulate  
19 economic growth, reduce traffic congestion, enhance

1 environmental sustainability and improve overall quality of  
2 life; and

3 WHEREAS, A comprehensive study specifically focusing on mass  
4 or public transit options in rural communities will provide  
5 valuable insights into the transportation needs, challenges and  
6 opportunities in these areas and inform future policy and  
7 investment decisions; and

8 WHEREAS, By conducting a study on mass or public transit in  
9 rural communities, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
10 can gather data, evaluate existing transportation services,  
11 identify gaps and deficiencies, explore innovative solutions and  
12 recommend strategies to improve access to affordable and  
13 efficient transit options for rural residents; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
15 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to undertake a  
16 comprehensive study on mass or public transit in Pennsylvania's  
17 rural communities; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study:

19 (1) Assess the existing transportation infrastructure,  
20 including road networks, bridges and mass or public transit  
21 services, in rural communities across this Commonwealth.

22 (2) Identify the transportation needs, challenges and  
23 priorities of rural residents, considering factors, including  
24 employment, education, health care and access to essential  
25 services.

26 (3) Evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of  
27 various mass or public transit options, including bus  
28 services, ride-sharing programs, on-demand services and  
29 innovative solutions using emerging technologies.

30 (4) Examine successful models and best practices

1 implemented in other states to address transportation  
2 challenges in rural areas.

3 (5) Engage with local communities, stakeholders,  
4 leaders, transportation experts and other relevant entities  
5 to gather input, feedback and insights throughout the study  
6 process.

7 (6) Develop a comprehensive set of recommendations and  
8 strategies to enhance mass or public transit options in rural  
9 communities, considering cost-effectiveness, environmental  
10 impact and long-term sustainability;  
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
13 prepare a report of its findings and recommendations and submit  
14 the report to the House of Representatives no later than 12  
15 months after the adoption of this resolution.