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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 445 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MILLARD, MURT, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, D. MILLER,  
POLINCHOCK, HOHENSTEIN, LONGIETTI, MADDEN, STRUZZI, KIRKLAND,  
KENYATTA, JOHNSON-HARRELL, MOUL, HILL-EVANS AND KAUFER,  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an  
2 advisory committee to conduct a study on challenges  
3 individuals with disabilities face when traveling within this  
4 Commonwealth and determine supports needed to accommodate  
5 individuals with disabilities when traveling within this  
6 Commonwealth.

7 WHEREAS, Travel and tourism make up an important sector of  
8 this Commonwealth's economy, with more than 200 million visitors  
9 traveling to or within the State every year, moving about from  
10 place to place for work, personal errands and leisure  
11 activities; and

12 WHEREAS, Travelers have a substantial financial impact on  
13 this Commonwealth, spending more than \$40 billion, supporting  
14 more than 503,000 jobs and generating \$4.1 billion in tax  
15 revenue for the State and local governments; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 25 million Americans with disabilities  
17 have reported travel-limiting disabilities and 3.6 million  
18 Americans with travel-limiting disabilities do not leave their

1 homes because they are disabled or housebound; and

2 WHEREAS, Seven out of ten individuals with a disability  
3 reduce their day-to-day travel because of their disability; and

4 WHEREAS, Thirty-two percent of individuals with a disability  
5 are missing and canceling appointments daily due to  
6 transportation-related difficulties; and

7 WHEREAS, Many travelers with disabilities are hesitant to  
8 travel due to concerns about the availability of support and  
9 accommodation available to them at their destination or during  
10 their travels; and

11 WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) recognizes  
12 and protects an individual's right to fully participate in all  
13 aspects of society, including the right to travel, if the  
14 individual has a disability; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
16 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee  
17 to conduct a study on challenges individuals with disabilities  
18 face when traveling within this Commonwealth, including, but not  
19 limited to, individuals with autism, vision impairments and  
20 physical disabilities; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee investigate how the ADA  
22 addresses challenges to travel for individuals with disabilities  
23 and to what extent this Commonwealth's tourism industry can  
24 improve and accommodate individuals with disabilities; and be it  
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee be composed of  
27 approximately 20 members with knowledge of and experience with  
28 individuals with disabilities; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission submit a  
30 report of the study and recommendations to remedy the current

1 issues individuals with disabilities face when traveling within  
2 this Commonwealth to the House of Representatives no later than  
3 12 months after the adoption of this resolution.