
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 468 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, CAUSER, ECKER, GROVE, HAMM, JAMES,
JOZWIAK, KEPHART, MARCELL, MENTZER, MOUL, OBERLANDER,
PICKETT, ROWE, SCHMITT, SMITH, STENDER, TWARDZIK AND
ZIMMERMAN, JUNE 5, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JUNE 5, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study to comprehensively review all the permits
3 issued by the Department of Environmental Protection,
4 including the authority of the Department of Environmental
5 Protection, and issue a report of findings and
6 recommendations.

7 WHEREAS, The mission of the Department of Environmental
8 Protection (DEP) is to protect this Commonwealth's air, land and
9 water from pollution and to provide for the health and safety of
10 the residents of this Commonwealth through a cleaner
11 environment; and

12 WHEREAS, In carrying out its mission, DEP must work with
13 individuals, organizations and businesses to ensure that they
14 are partners, following regulations and preserving our
15 Commonwealth's most precious resources; and

16 WHEREAS, One of the many administrative functions of DEP is
17 to issue permits, licenses and certifications; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2018, DEP announced a comprehensive permitting

1 reform initiative that was to reduce permit backlogs, modernize
2 permitting processes and better utilize technology to improve
3 both oversight and efficiency; and

4 WHEREAS, In a recent DEP budget hearing, the Secretary of
5 Environmental Protection was asked to provide the committee with
6 an updated list of permits issued by DEP and their statutory
7 authority; and

8 WHEREAS, DEP provided the Appropriations Committee of the
9 House of Representatives with a response dated March 15, 2024,
10 stating that DEP issued 800 permits; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
12 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study to
13 comprehensively review all the permits, including all types of
14 authorizations, approvals, licenses and certifications, issued
15 by the Department of Environmental Protection, including the
16 authority of the Department of Environmental Protection, and
17 issue a report of its findings and recommendations; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the study include:

20 (1) a list of each permit issued by DEP, including the
21 initial date of issuance of the permit, and the applicable
22 statutory reference for DEP's authority;

23 (2) a review of each permit issued by DEP, including the
24 identification of any overlapping, inconsistent or antiquated
25 permits;

26 (3) a review of which permits are explicitly required by
27 Federal law or regulation and an analysis of permits that go
28 beyond what is required by Federal law or regulation or are
29 not required by the Federal Government;

30 (4) a review of permit utilization and implementation of

1 DEP permits, over a full calendar year review shall include:

2 (i) the number of each permit application by type,
3 including whether the process involved electronic or
4 paper filing;

5 (ii) the maximum and minimum wait times for approval
6 of each permit; and

7 (iii) the number of permits necessary per applicant;

8 (5) an analysis and comparison of environmental
9 protection permits from other states, to identify best
10 practices or provide suggestions for improving on program
11 performance while preserving and maintaining DEP's mission;
12 and

13 (6) an analysis and comparison of total and individual
14 resources and workloads for the permitting programs and all
15 offices charged with administration of the programs;

16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
18 use other studies and existing resources that may assist in
19 completing the study; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the report be submitted to:

21 (1) the chair and minority chair of the Environmental
22 Resources and Energy Committee of the Senate; and

23 (2) the chair and minority chair of the Environmental
24 Resources and Energy Committee of the House of
25 Representatives;

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
28 provide a report of its findings and recommendations not later
29 than one year after the adoption of this resolution.