

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 147 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, PHILLIPS-HILL, HUTCHINSON AND BREWSTER,
JULY 27, 2023

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JULY 27, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study on the regulations impacting the cost and
3 duration of road and bridge construction and repair in this
4 Commonwealth, identifying the regulations waived for the
5 Philadelphia I-95 repair project, to consider if the
6 regulations might be streamlined in the future for
7 nonemergency construction and repair projects and to issue a
8 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate.

9 WHEREAS, Following the Philadelphia I-95 bridge accident and
10 closure, the Commonwealth took special actions to complete
11 repairs and reopen the bridge in an abbreviated timeline; and

12 WHEREAS, The effort to make the bridge operational from the
13 date of the accident to reopening took from June 11 to June 23,
14 2023; and

15 WHEREAS, The manner in which the incident was addressed
16 indicates both the need and the ability to address other road
17 and bridge infrastructure issues as a matter of safety and due
18 diligence; and

19 WHEREAS, Streamlined regulatory processes for the timely
20 completion of road and bridge projects protect the citizens of
21 this Commonwealth; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and
2 Finance Committee to conduct a study on the regulations
3 impacting the cost and duration of road and bridge construction
4 and repair in this Commonwealth, identifying the regulations
5 waived for the Philadelphia I-95 repair project, to consider if
6 the regulations might be streamlined in the future for
7 nonemergency construction and repair projects and to issue a
8 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the study include all of the following, using
11 the most recent data available, regarding the laws and
12 regulations governing road and bridge repair in this
13 Commonwealth:

14 (1) A list and description of the regulations which were
15 waived in order to complete the Philadelphia I-95 bridge
16 repairs on an expedited timeline.

17 (2) A list and description of the regulations which were
18 altered in some fashion, and which sections of said
19 regulations were altered, in order to complete the
20 Philadelphia I-95 bridge repairs on an expedited timeline.

21 (3) A detailed timeline of actions taken on the
22 Philadelphia I-95 bridge repairs from initial announcements
23 and bidding to completion.

24 (4) The cost of repairs to the Philadelphia I-95 bridge.

25 (5) Any and all cost differences realized due to the
26 expedited timeline and waived regulations.

27 (6) Any and all further economic impact to the
28 surrounding area due to the expedited timeline, waived
29 regulations and reopening.

30 (7) A description of other similar bridge repairs in

1 this Commonwealth in the last five years which were required
2 to abide by the regulations listed and described in
3 paragraphs (1) and (2), including announcement and bidding
4 start dates, dates of completion and total cost for each
5 described repair.

6 (8) Comparison of the difference in time to completion
7 of the Philadelphia I-95 bridge repair project versus bridges
8 listed in paragraph (7).

9 (9) Comparison of the difference in cost of completion
10 of the Philadelphia I-95 bridge repair project versus bridges
11 listed in paragraph (7).

12 (10) Consideration and outline of why under normal
13 conditions the regulations waived for the Philadelphia I-95
14 bridge repair project might be waived.

15 (11) Consideration of any other factors that enable the
16 General Assembly to evaluate and determine how to discern if
17 bidding and repairs of Commonwealth roads and bridges can be
18 streamlined and timelines shortened under normal conditions;
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
21 report its findings to the Senate no later than March 15, 2024.