
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 416 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, BROWNE, COSTA, EICHELBERGER, KILLION,
RAFFERTY AND SCHWANK, JULY 18, 2018

REFERRED TO LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JULY 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Labor and Industry to conduct a
2 study of the fire codes and standards adopted and enforced by
3 each municipality in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Fire prevention and procedure is essential in
5 protecting the health and safety of the residents of this
6 Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Fire codes are necessary to ensure that entities
8 charged with protecting this Commonwealth from fire and
9 explosion are following and enforcing the same standards to
10 minimize loss to persons and property; and

11 WHEREAS, Municipalities in this Commonwealth are required
12 under 34 Pa. Code Pt. XIV to adopt provisions of the
13 International Fire Code (IFC), which references the National
14 Fire Protection Association standards, and the codes and
15 standards of the International Building Code 2009 and certain
16 provisions from the International Building Code 2015 issued by
17 the International Code Council as a minimum standard; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Industry enforces the

1 codes and standards required under 34 Pa. Code Pt. XIV; and

2 WHEREAS, The codes and standards are continuously updated
3 with new editions as requirements are updated; and

4 WHEREAS, The IFC is published on a triennial basis, with the
5 2018 edition being the most recent version; and

6 WHEREAS, Municipalities in this Commonwealth have been
7 inconsistent in the adoption and enforcement of both current and
8 outdated editions of the codes and standards required under 34
9 Pa. Code Pt. XIV to the detriment of Commonwealth residents,
10 businesses, governments and communities; and

11 WHEREAS, Fire protection and suppression equipment companies
12 charged with the inspection, charging and refill of portable
13 fire suppression equipment are often required to apply
14 inconsistent regulatory and enforcement standards based on the
15 location of the equipment being inspected; and

16 WHEREAS, The adoption of varying standards and editions of
17 fire codes has led to discrepancies in requirements and
18 enforcement between municipalities across this Commonwealth;
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Department of Labor and
21 Industry to conduct a study of the fire codes and standards
22 adopted and enforced by each municipality in this Commonwealth;
23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the municipalities in this Commonwealth be
25 directed to cooperate with the Department of Labor and Industry
26 in conducting the study; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That, in furtherance of the study, the Department
28 of Labor and Industry determine, at a minimum, the fire codes
29 and standards adopted and enforced by each municipality in this
30 Commonwealth and the discrepancies, if any, among them; and be

1 it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor and Industry prepare
3 and submit a written report to the Senate; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Department of Labor and Industry publish
5 the report on the department's publicly accessible Internet
6 website and distribute the report to the majority chairperson
7 and minority chairperson of the Senate, the majority chairperson
8 and minority chairperson of the House of Representatives, the
9 majority chairperson and minority chairperson of the Labor and
10 Industry Committee of the Senate, the majority chairperson and
11 minority chairperson of the Labor and Industry Committee in the
12 House of Representatives, the majority chairperson and minority
13 chairperson of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
14 Committee of the Senate and the majority chairperson and
15 minority chairperson of Veterans Affairs and Emergency
16 Preparedness Committee of the House of Representatives; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Veterans Affairs and Emergency
19 Preparedness Committee of the Senate and the Veterans Affairs
20 and Emergency Preparedness Committee of the House of
21 Representatives, upon receipt of the report, may conduct at
22 least four geographically dispersed public input hearings to
23 receive policy recommendations for the adoption of uniform fire
24 code and enforcement standards throughout this Commonwealth.