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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 6

Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, TEPLITZ, FARNESE, YAW, YUDICHAK,  
BROWNE, MENSCH, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, BOSCOLA AND RAFFERTY,  
JANUARY 15, 2015

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REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, JANUARY 15, 2015

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to review  
2 the Commonwealth's program of providing funding for drinking  
3 water, wastewater and storm water projects authorized under  
4 the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Act.

5 WHEREAS, It is important for the Commonwealth to have in  
6 place proper water supply, sewage disposal and storm water  
7 systems throughout this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, A program to fund drinking water, wastewater and  
9 storm water projects will ensure public health and safety, a  
10 quality environment and economic development; and

11 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognized that many  
12 Pennsylvania communities have antiquated or inadequate water,  
13 sewer and storm water systems posing a health risk and  
14 consequently enacted the act of March 1, 1988 (P.L.82, No.16),  
15 known as the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority  
16 Act, which established the Pennsylvania Infrastructure  
17 Investment Authority (PENNVEST); and

18 WHEREAS, PENNVEST, an independent State agency, provides low-

1 cost financial assistance for infrastructure improvements to  
2 community drinking water, wastewater and storm water systems  
3 throughout this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have embraced the need for funding  
5 dedicated to the improvement of drinking water, wastewater and  
6 storm water systems by approval of several referenda; and

7 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has an obligation to the  
8 residents of this Commonwealth to ensure that this investment is  
9 allocated wisely and achieves the results envisioned for  
10 PENNVEST; and

11 WHEREAS, A review and evaluation of the implementation of  
12 PENNVEST has not been undertaken in over a decade, and the  
13 Senate has an interest in ensuring that the program is  
14 administered in accordance with the goals and intent of  
15 PENNVEST's enabling act; and

16 WHEREAS, A review could lead to recommendations for improving  
17 PENNVEST so that more Pennsylvania communities and residents may  
18 benefit from this program; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and  
20 Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive review and  
21 evaluation of the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment  
22 Authority Act and prepare a report of its findings which shall,  
23 at a minimum:

24 (1) determine all sources of funding for PENNVEST and  
25 itemize the amounts of Federal, State and other funding;

26 (2) identify the overall amount of bond funding  
27 authorized, the amount issued and a schedule of debt service  
28 on the bond issuance;

29 (3) identify the total amount of funds allocated and a  
30 compilation of how the allocated funds were spent;

1           (4) determine whether funding is being awarded in  
2 accordance with the criteria used to prioritize projects;  
3           (5) provide a review of the projects approved by each  
4 county, including the amount of funding and type of projects;  
5           (6) identify amounts of loans and grants awarded on a  
6 per county basis and a per Commonwealth resident basis; and  
7           (7) determine why any disproportionate awards based on  
8 population exist and why some areas of this Commonwealth are  
9 underserved; and  
10          (8) determine the feasibility of combining PENNVEST with  
11 other programs to obtain greater efficiencies and to serve  
12 more areas of this Commonwealth; and  
13          (9) determine the overall effectiveness of PENNVEST's  
14 enabling act in achieving the goals of protecting public  
15 health and safety and promoting economic development of this  
16 Commonwealth;  
17 and be it further  
18          RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
19 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate within six  
20 months of the adoption of this resolution.