
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 338 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, HUGHES, SCHWANK AND YUDICHAK,
JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to establish a national
2 infrastructure bank.

3 WHEREAS, There is a widely acknowledged shortfall in
4 infrastructure spending in the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave
6 the United States a D+ in its 2017 report card and estimates
7 that the nation needs to spend \$4.6 trillion to bring current
8 infrastructure up to a state of good repair; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Chamber of Commerce reports that
10 the infrastructure shortfall in the United States is \$3.7
11 trillion and North America's Building Trades Unions state that
12 the shortfall is \$4 trillion; and

13 WHEREAS, The infrastructure crisis in this Commonwealth
14 mirrors that of the nation; and

15 WHEREAS, The ASCE gave Pennsylvania an overall C- in its 2018
16 report card; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite this overall "fair" grade, numerous key
18 infrastructure areas are lacking, including 43% of roadways

1 owned by the Department of Transportation having fair or poor
2 roadway surfaces, and traffic congestion presently resulting in
3 more than \$3.7 billion annually in lost time and wasted fuel;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, While funding from Act 89 of 2013 has improved the
6 failing grade for Pennsylvania's roadways and lead to 2,600
7 active or completed roadway improvement projects, Pennsylvania
8 still has a D+ rating in this category; and

9 WHEREAS, Other core components of Pennsylvania's
10 infrastructure are near failing grades, including:

11 (1) wastewater collection and treatment, graded as a D-,
12 with an anticipated funding gap of \$8.4 billion over the next
13 10 years for repairing or upgrading current systems;

14 (2) storm water collection and treatment, graded as a D,
15 with a significant lack of uniformity and consistency in
16 funding and oversight across the State;

17 (3) drinking water, a necessity for quality of life,
18 graded as a D, with a projected funding gap of \$10.2 billion
19 for public water systems; and

20 (4) approximately 18.3% or 4,173 bridges received a D+
21 grade and are classified as being in poor condition;

22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States can enact
24 legislation for a new national infrastructure bank, to be
25 capitalized at \$4 trillion; and

26 WHEREAS, A new national infrastructure bank can be financed
27 the same way as previous national infrastructure banks, by
28 monetizing existing Treasury debt rather than creating new debt;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, This nonpartisan model was started by Treasury

1 Secretary Alexander Hamilton with the First Bank of the United
2 States and has been successfully used four times in our nation's
3 history, including under Presidents John Quincy Adams, Abraham
4 Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt; and

5 WHEREAS, A new national infrastructure bank will create 25
6 million new high-paying union jobs in the process and help end
7 poverty in our nation's rural and urban areas; and

8 WHEREAS, A new national infrastructure bank can help finance
9 many projects the nation needs, including high-speed rail,
10 roads, bridges, schools, water systems, flood control and many
11 others; and

12 WHEREAS, Franklin Roosevelt's national infrastructure bank,
13 the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, not only helped build
14 Pennsylvania's infrastructure, but it also paid for much of the
15 industrial output of World War II, making Pennsylvania a
16 critical state in our nation's efforts, not only of producing
17 critical components to the war effort but also key in the
18 manufacturing and processing of steel, the backbone of the
19 country; and

20 WHEREAS, A new national infrastructure bank has been endorsed
21 by many organizations, including the National Latino Farmers and
22 Ranchers Trade Association, the National Congress of Black Women
23 and the Democratic Municipal Officials; and

24 WHEREAS, In support of a new national infrastructure bank, 17
25 state legislatures have introduced resolutions, three state
26 houses passed resolutions in a bipartisan vote this spring and
27 many city and county councils have done the same; therefore be
28 it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
30 urge the Congress of the United States to establish a national

1 infrastructure bank; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
3 the President of the United States, each member of Congress from
4 Pennsylvania and the Governor of Pennsylvania.