

PRINTER'S NO. 999

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 153 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, COSTA, FONTANA, KANE AND YUDICHAK,
JULY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, JULY 20, 2021

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Despite this overall "fair" grade, numerous key infrastructure areas are lacking, including 43% of roadways owned by the Department of Transportation having fair or poor roadway surfaces, and traffic congestion presently resulting in more than \$3.7 billion annually in lost time and wasted fuel; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

and

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

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

WHEREAS, This nonpartisan model was started by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton with the First Bank of the United States and has been successfully used four times in our nation's history, including under Presidents John Quincy Adams, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt; and

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to establish a national infrastructure bank; and be it further

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