

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 421 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, SCAVELLO, RAFFERTY, MENSCH, STEFANO AND
YUDICHAK, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

REFERRED TO URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

A RESOLUTION

Urging the President and the Congress of the United States to review the changes to the Federal floodplain management regulations that negatively impact our blighted communities.

WHEREAS, Blight is a growing problem in many communities in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Changes made to the Federal floodplain management regulations were issued by executive order in January 2015; and

WHEREAS, Flood insurance is now required under the executive order, making the redevelopment and revitalization of older, blighted properties financially straining; and

WHEREAS, Federal agencies are obligated to apply these standards to all Federal actions, including federally approved permits, federally backed home loans and flood insurance regulations and many Housing and Urban Development programs, including the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program; and

WHEREAS, Due to these conversions, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is no longer accepting applications for buildings located in designated floodplain areas for the LIHTC program;

and

WHEREAS, While these changes were intended to enhance the safety and security of citizens during floods and to diminish the risk of flood loss, the modifications to the Federal floodplain management regulations have hindered the ability of our older communities to develop creative, nonprohibitive ways to renovate abandoned buildings; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to review the changes to the Federal floodplain management regulations to assess whether exceptions should be made for potential building projects so that applications can be submitted to the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency for review and consideration; and be it further

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