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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 268 Session of  
2012

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INTRODUCED BY PIPPY, LEACH, RAFFERTY, HUGHES, TARTAGLIONE,  
BREWSTER, STACK, SCARNATI, FONTANA, ARGALL, DINNIMAN,  
SCHWANK, COSTA AND FERLO, MARCH 16, 2012

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 16, 2012

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A RESOLUTION

Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the museums in this Commonwealth and research and evaluate how funding and resources are allocated for this Commonwealth's museums.

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums are vital players in the economic and social prosperity of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums provide valuable educational experience to citizens of all ages; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums provide significant economic impact and tourism dollars; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums help preserve the long history of Pennsylvania, this nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums help educate young and old alike on a variety of subjects from fine art to Pennsylvania history to sports history; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's museums are a low-cost, family friendly cultural attraction; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government defines a museum as "a public

or private nonprofit agency or institution organized on a permanent basis for essentially education or aesthetic purposes, which, utilizing a professional staff, owns or utilizes tangible objects, cares for them, and exhibits them on a regular basis"; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth funds its museums in a variety of ways including the Museum Assistance Grants, Nonpreferred Appropriations and individual line items within the State operating budget; and

WHEREAS, There has been a decline in State funding to this Commonwealth's museums in recent years; and

WHEREAS, The unpredictable and varied funding for this Commonwealth's museums has been a burden to many of the museums; and

WHEREAS, The temporary or permanent loss of any of this Commonwealth's museums due to a decline in State funding will impact the economic and cultural climate of its surrounding community; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee conduct a study of this Commonwealth's museums, measuring funding and resources allocated to the museums; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the study should include an analysis of the current museum funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee provide recommendations necessary or desirable to improve the funding of this Commonwealth's valued museums; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee report to the Senate the result of its study and recommendations regarding the status of funding of this Commonwealth's museums

and file the report with the Chief Clerk of the Senate no later than 90 days after adoption of this resolution.