SPONSOR: Sen. Brown & Sen. Walsh & Rep. Cooke
Sens. Mantzavinos, Paradee, Pettyjohn, Sturgeon, Hocker, Poore, Cruce, Lockman; Reps. Bolden, Dukes, Hilovsky, K. Johnson, Osienski, K. Williams

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

REESTABLISHING A PORT OF WILMINGTON EXPANSION TASK FORCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORT DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

WHEREAS, in 2015, the General Assembly established a Port of Wilmington Expansion Task Force to examine the feasibility of port expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Wilmington Expansion Task Force concluded that port expansion should be pursued by this State and the Diamond State Port Corporation ("DSPC"); and

WHEREAS, since 2016, the DSPC, with the support of Governors Markell and Carney, as well as the General Assembly, has supported efforts to build a new port terminal; and

WHEREAS, a private company, Enstructure, is now the port operator and has worked with the DSPC to develop a specific plan to build a new terminal at Edgemoor; and

WHEREAS, a financial plan, totaling over $635 million, including contributions from this State, federal government, and Enstructure is now in place to build the new terminal; and

WHEREAS, this State's congressional delegation remains fully supportive of port expansion and has provided important assistance in securing funding and permit approvals to build the new terminal; and

WHEREAS, construction of the new terminal will create an estimated 3,900 high-paying construction jobs under a Project Labor Agreement; and

WHEREAS, once the new port terminal is operational, another estimated 3,100 high-paying Delaware jobs will be created, helping thousands of Delaware families, including many people of color, to improve their standard of living, buy homes, and send children to college; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly also recognizes that the benefits of port expansion must consider the needs of surrounding communities and the quality of life of area residents; and

WHEREAS, despite the huge potential of port expansion for jobs and economic development, significant opposition exists from out-of-state interests; and

WHEREAS, those interests have fought against this State's right to expand its maritime economy, suing to block permits and hiring agents in this State to oppose port expansion efforts; and

WHEREAS, Governor Meyer's administration, the DSPC, and the General Assembly share the common goals of making sure the expansion succeeds and moving forward with full transparency so that the best interests of Delaware are considered at all times.

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 153rd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Port of Wilmington Expansion Task Force ("Task Force") created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 38 in the 148th General Assembly is reestablished to do all of the following:

(1) Monitor the ongoing efforts of the DSPC and Enstructure to meet the goal of beginning construction of the new port terminal as soon as possible.

(2) Provide monthly written updates on the progress of the port expansion to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) Make written recommendations, as needed, to the General Assembly on ways to accomplish port expansion and continued growth in Delaware's maritime sector.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be comprised of the following members, or a designee selected by a member serving by virtue of position:

(1) Two members of the Senate, one from each caucus, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives, one from each caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(3) Two members of the public, one appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(4) The Secretary of the Department of State.

(5) The Secretary of the Department of Finance.

(6) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

(7) The Secretary of the Department of Labor.

(8) The Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

(9) The President of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce.

(10) The Mayor of the City of Wilmington.

(11) The Vice Chair of the Diamond State Port Corporation.

(12) The President of International Longshoreman's Association Local 2076.

(13) The President of International Longshoreman's Association Local 1694.

(14) The President of International Longshoreman's Association Local 1883.

(15) The President of International Longshoreman's Association Local 1884.

(16) The President of International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 326.

(17) Two members of the Delaware Building and Construction Trades Council, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in odd-numbered years the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint a member of the Task Force to be the Chair of the Task Force and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of the Task Force to be the Vice-Chair of the Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in even-numbered years the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint a member of the Task Force to be the Chair of the Task Force and the President Pro Tempore shall appoint a member of the Task Force to be the Vice-Chair of the Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that members serving by virtue of position who are granted the ability to designate another individual to attend a Task Force meeting must provide the designation in writing to the Chair. An individual attending a meeting for a member serving by virtue of position has the same duties and rights as the member serving by virtue of position.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Task Force be responsible for guiding the administration of the Task Force by, at a minimum, doing all of the following:

(1) Notifying the individuals who are members of the Task Force and, if applicable, notifying a person of the need to nominate or appoint a member.

(2) Setting a date, time, and place for the initial organizational meeting.

(3) Supervising the preparation and distribution of Task Force meeting notices, agendas, minutes, correspondence, and reports.

(4) Sending to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Director of the Division of Legislative Services, after the first meeting of the Task Force, a list of the members of the Task Force and the person who appointed them.

(5) Providing meeting notices, agendas, and minutes to the Director of the Division of Legislative Services.

(6) Ensuring that any written recommendations required by this Concurrent Resolution are submitted to the following:

a. The President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the Senate, for distribution to all Senators.

b. The Speaker and Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, for distribution to all Representatives.

c. The Director and the Librarian of the Division of Legislative Services.

d. The Director of the Delaware Public Archives.

e. The Governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force must hold its first meeting not later than 15 business days after the passage of this Concurrent Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a quorum of the Task Force is a majority of its members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

(1) Official action by the Task Force, including making findings and recommendations, requires the approval of a quorum of the Task Force.

(2) The Task Force may adopt rules necessary for its operation. If the Task Force does not adopt rules or if the adopted rules do not govern a given situation, Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure controls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly is responsible for providing reasonable and necessary support staff and materials for the Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force may request additional staff support from the executive branch departments represented on the Task Force.

Ssynopsis

This Concurrent Resolution reestablishes the Port of Wilmington Expansion Task Force ("Task Force"). The Task Force was previously created by House Concurrent Resolution No. 38 in the 148th General Assembly and concluded that port expansion should be pursued by the State and the Diamond State Port Corporation.

The General Assembly is reestablishing the Task Force to monitor the port expansion project, to report monthly to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives on the progress of the port expansion project, and to provide recommendations to the General Assembly that ensure the success of the planned port expansion and foster continued growth in Delaware's maritime economy.

Author: Senator Brown