

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107**

2 (By Delegates By Delegates Morgan, Stephens, Cann, Butcher,
3 Ferns, Givens, Hall, Hartman, Hatfield, Jones, Martin, Phillips,
4 R., Staggers, Swartzmiller, Talbott, Azinger, Kump, O'Neal,
5 Nelson, Romine and Storch)

6
7 (Originating in the Committee on Government Organization;
8 February 25, 2011)
9

10 Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance
11 authorize a study of the independence of the Office of
12 Environmental Advocate within the Department of Environmental
13 Protection.

14 WHEREAS, The safe-guarding of a clean and healthy environment
15 is a concern to the Legislature for the protection of the citizens
16 and communities of West Virginia through reasonable and appropriate
17 regulatory enforcement; and

18 WHEREAS, An the office of Environmental Advocate currently
19 exists within the Department of Environmental Protection to work on
20 behalf of the citizens, and the State of West Virginia has made
21 efforts to ensure the protection and safety of the environment; and

22 WHEREAS, It is desirable to examine the independence of the
23 Environmental Advocate in order to address the concerns of citizens
24 in regard to the use and enjoyment of their land and environment in
25 accordance with the existing regulatory structures; therefore, be
26 it

27 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

28 That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby
29 requested to authorize a study of the independence of the Office of

1 Environmental Advocate within the Department of Environmental
2 Protection; and, be it

3 *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and
4 Finance report to the Regular Session of the Legislature, 2012, on
5 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts
6 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;
7 and, be it

8 *Further Resolved*, That the Legislative expenses necessary to
9 conduct this study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary
10 legislation be paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint
11 Committee on Government and Finance.