



SPONSOR: Sen. Bunting;  
Sens. Peterson, Sokola, Sorenson,  
Venables; Reps. Smith, Cathcart,  
Hudson, Keeley, Schwartzkopf

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

142nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

DIRECTING THE DELAWARE RIVER AND BAY AUTHORITY TO PREPARE A STUDY ON THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF A COMBINED BRIDGE/TUNNEL CROSSING TO TRAVERSE THE DELAWARE BAY.

1           WHEREAS, growth and development in Sussex County has increased the pressure on Delaware's highway system in  
2 that area; and

3           WHEREAS, as it is currently operated, the Cape May – Lewes Ferry is neither an effective commuter conveyance  
4 nor a strong draw for tourists to Sussex County, losing millions of dollars each year and having lost approximately \$3 million  
5 last year alone; and

6           WHEREAS, it takes over an hour to cross the Delaware Bay by Ferry at a cost of \$25.00 each way during the peak  
7 travel season; and

8           WHEREAS, years ago, the concept of a combined bridge/tunnel crossing to traverse the Chesapeake Bay between the  
9 southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula with the Virginia mainland was investigated and built; and

10          WHEREAS, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel Crossing has proven successful, providing for uninterrupted and  
11 expedient travel across the Bay; and

12          WHEREAS, a project to build a bridge/tunnel crossing to traverse the Delaware Bay between Delaware and New  
13 Jersey would be similar in scope to the Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel Crossing; and

14          WHEREAS, the General Assembly finds and declares that the construction of a Delaware Bay Bridge/Tunnel  
15 Crossing would be an inspiring engineering feat and, when completed, could be used as a multi-purpose structure, acting both  
16 as a major route for interstate transportation and travel and a platform for wind turbines or tidal generation facilities to  
17 generate electricity desperately needed throughout Sussex County;

19 NOW THEREFORE:

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 142<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
21 Representatives thereof concurring therein, with the approval of the Governor, that the Delaware River and Bay Authority is  
22 directed to study the feasibility of constructing a Combined Bridge/Tunnel Crossing to traverse the Delaware Bay.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no later than January 15, 2005, the Delaware River and Bay Authority is directed  
24 to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report describing its research and findings, including the potential costs  
25 to motorists using the bridge/tunnel.

#### SYNOPSIS

As it is currently operated, the Cape May – Lewes Ferry is neither an effective commuter conveyance nor a strong draw for tourists to Sussex County, losing millions of dollars each year. Other states have investigated alternatives to a ferry system and in some cases have constructed bridge/tunnel crossings to supplement or replace such a system.

In addition to offering savings and convenience to the citizens of Delaware and New Jersey, the construction of a Delaware Bay Bridge/Tunnel Crossing would be an inspiring engineering feat and, when completed, could be used as a multi-purpose structure, acting both as a major route for interstate transportation and travel and a platform for wind turbines or tidal generation facilities to generate electricity desperately needed throughout Sussex County.

This Joint Resolution directs the DRBA to conduct a study on the feasibility of constructing a Combined Bridge/Tunnel Crossing to traverse the Delaware Bay. This Joint Resolution also directs the DRBA to submit a report describing its research and findings to the Governor and the General Assembly no later than January 15, 2005.

Author: Senator Bunting