

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 948 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, MURT, READSHAW, MCGEEHAN, BROWNLEE, BISHOP, DIGIROLAMO, ENGLISH, J. HARRIS, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, MAHONEY, ROZZI, SAMUELSON, COHEN, McCARTER, SABATINA AND HARHAI, JULY 29, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JULY 29, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
 2 conduct a comprehensive review of data maintained by the  
 3 Department of Education and the Department of Public Welfare  
 4 on the number of transition-age youth and young adults  
 5 diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

6 WHEREAS, The Autism census report update in December 2013,  
 7 using data from the 2011 census and social service databases,  
 8 indicated that there were approximately 8,395 adults 21 years of  
 9 age and older with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in 2013 and  
 10 projects that by 2020 there will be more than 30,000 adults with  
 11 ASD; and

12 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2013-2014, an estimated 418 slots for  
 13 Adult Autism Waivers (AAW) were available and an estimated 146  
 14 slots for Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) were available;  
 15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) reports that it  
 17 maintains "interest lists" for AAW and ACAP which do not  
 18 guarantee either a place in line or that services will be

1 received and, in May 2014, there were an estimated 1,200 people  
2 on the interest lists; and

3 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD  
4 receiving some services through the intellectual disabilities  
5 service system, Medicaid waiver services administered through  
6 the Office of Long-Term Living, mental health services or the  
7 Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; and

8 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD  
9 who are not dually diagnosed with other disabilities and do not  
10 meet the eligibility criteria for one of the Medicaid waivers  
11 for people with intellectual disabilities and people with  
12 physical disabilities or other similar programs and are  
13 therefore in need of services administered by the BAS; and

14 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD  
15 who are found in other State and community service systems  
16 including homeless services, State hospitals, the criminal  
17 justice system and the correction system; and

18 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD  
19 not served in any State or community system who are living at  
20 home and reliant on aging parents or siblings; and

21 WHEREAS, The Office of Developmental Programs has developed  
22 and maintains a comprehensive waiting list for people with  
23 intellectual disabilities that categorizes the level of support  
24 needed by each individual, the county of residence and if the  
25 person resides with an elderly caregiver, however that type of  
26 list has not been developed for people with ASD; and

27 WHEREAS, The budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 allocated  
28 funding for an additional 1,080 people with intellectual  
29 disabilities but only allocated funding for an additional 118  
30 people with ASD; and

1       WHEREAS, The proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015  
2 allocates funding for an additional 1,100 people with  
3 intellectual disabilities but only allocates funding for an  
4 additional 100 people with ASD; therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request that the  
6 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee conduct a comprehensive  
7 review of data maintained by the Department of Education and the  
8 Department of Public Welfare on the number of transition-age  
9 youth and young adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder;  
10 and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
12 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the  
13 Department of Public Welfare and the Bureau of Autism Services  
14 and recommend a plan to provide home-based and community-based  
15 supports for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders no later than  
16 six months from the passage of this resolution.