
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 237 Session of
1994

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, FICHTER, GORDNER, OLIVER, RUBLEY, HERSHEY,
CESSAR, FAJT, VEON, ROONEY, D. R. WRIGHT, ROBINSON AND MELIO,
FEBRUARY 2, 1994

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, FEBRUARY 2, 1994

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Aging and Youth Committee to study problems of
2 abuse of mental patients.

3 WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of the General Assembly
4 that there are instances of abuse of patients in health care
5 facilities who are being treated for mental or emotional
6 problems or disorders; and

7 WHEREAS, It is difficult for these patients to initiate
8 criminal investigations or to pursue civil remedies; and

9 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has the responsibility to protect
10 these patients and assure proper care; and

11 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth may not be meeting this
12 responsibility; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Aging and Youth Committee conduct a study
14 of abuse of patients being treated for mental or emotional
15 problems or disorders in health care facilities; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the committee have the power to hold hearings,

1 take testimony and make investigations at such places as it
2 deems necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the committee have the power to issue
4 subpoenas under the hand and seal of its chairperson commanding
5 any person to appear before the committee to answer questions
6 touching matters properly being inquired into by the committee
7 and to produce such records and documents as the committee deems
8 necessary; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the subpoenas be servable upon any person and
10 have the same effect as subpoenas issued out of the courts of
11 this Commonwealth and that any person who willfully neglects or
12 refuses to testify before the committee or to produce any
13 records or documents be subject to the penalties provided by the
14 laws of this Commonwealth in such case; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That each member of the committee have power to
16 administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before
17 the committee; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the committee make a report of its findings to
19 the House of Representatives by June 30, 1994.