

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 15

Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY FAIRCHILD, PHILLIPS, HUTCHINSON, MARKOSEK, EACHUS, THOMAS, ARGALL, ARMSTRONG, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, BROWNE, ALLEN, BUNT, CIVERA, CLARK, M. COHEN, DALLY, DeLUCA, EVANS, FLEAGLE, GEIST, GIGLIOTTI, GODSHALL, GORDNER, HALUSKA, HARHAI, HASAY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, KAISER, LAUGHLIN, LEVDANSKY, LYNCH, MAHER, MAITLAND, MASLAND, McCALL, MELIO, S. MILLER, MUNDY, NAILOR, ORIE, PESCI, PLATTS, RAMOS, READSHAW, ROSS, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SANTONI, SATHER, SAYLOR, SEMMEL, SERAFINI, SEYFERT, SHANER, B. SMITH, STERN, SURRA, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TRELLO, TRICH, TRUE, VAN HORNE, VANCE, WILT, YEWCIC, YOUNGBLOOD, COLAFELLA, ROBERTS AND STEELMAN, JANUARY 28, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 28, 1999

A RESOLUTION

1 Providing for the establishment of a task force to study the
2 mental retardation services system in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Support of family and friends, quality of care,
4 financial resources and State support are necessary for citizens
5 of this Commonwealth with mental retardation; and

6 WHEREAS, Of the 1,115,000 citizens with mental retardation
7 and their families and communities in this Commonwealth, 67,000
8 receive residential services in the community, more than 3,000
9 reside in private intermediate care facilities and 2,400 reside
10 in State centers; and

11 WHEREAS, The task force under House Resolution 187, Printer's
12 No.1869 (1997), held five public hearings across this
13 Commonwealth regarding the multiyear plan of the Department of

1 Public Welfare to redesign the Commonwealth's mental retardation
2 services system; and

3 WHEREAS, That task force heard many concerns and problems
4 with the current mental retardation services system; and

5 WHEREAS, The department's plan for redesign will have a
6 significant impact on the lives of individuals living in public
7 and private intermediate care facilities, community living
8 arrangements and personal care homes; and

9 WHEREAS, The department's plan for redesign will have a
10 significant impact on the friends and families of individuals
11 living in those facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, The department's plan for redesign will have a
13 significant impact on employees of those facilities and on
14 communities surrounding those facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, That task force sought solutions from stakeholders
16 and developed 28 legislative initiatives to address the concerns
17 of individuals and families heard throughout the public
18 hearings; and

19 WHEREAS, The ongoing impact of the multiyear plan has the
20 potential to have an impact upon the safety, health and quality
21 of life for individuals being served by the mental retardation
22 services system; and

23 WHEREAS, This impact has not been thoroughly investigated by
24 the members of the General Assembly; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That a special task force be created to
26 investigate, review and recommend legislative remedies needed to
27 make improvements in the Commonwealth's mental retardation
28 services system; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the task force consist of 11 members, six from
30 the majority party and five from the minority party; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That four of the six members from the majority
3 party be appointed from the Health and Human Services Committee
4 by the chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee and
5 three of the five members from the minority party be appointed
6 from the Health and Human Services Committee by the minority
7 chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the remaining two members from the majority
10 party be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
11 Representatives and that the remaining two members from the
12 minority party be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House
13 of Representatives; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives
15 appoint the chairperson of the task force from among its members
16 and that the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
17 appoint the minority chairperson of the task force from among
18 its members; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the task force hold hearings, take testimony
20 and make its investigations at such places as it deems necessary
21 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That each member of the task force has the power to
23 administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before
24 the task force; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of
26 Representatives be authorized to pay for necessary and
27 reasonable expenses incurred by the task force.