

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 78

Session of  
1999

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INTRODUCED BY EACHUS, FAIRCHILD, LEVDANSKY, MARKOSEK AND  
LESCOVITZ, MARCH 17, 1999

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 17, 1999

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A RESOLUTION

1 Amending House Resolution No. 15, adopted February 3, 1999,  
2 entitled "A resolution providing for the establishment of a  
3 task force to study the mental retardation services system in  
4 Pennsylvania," increasing the membership of the task force.

5 RESOLVED, That House Resolution No. 15, adopted February 3,  
6 1999, be amended to read:

7 A RESOLUTION

8 WHEREAS, Support of family and friends, quality of care,  
9 financial resources and State support are necessary for citizens  
10 of this Commonwealth with mental retardation; and

11 WHEREAS, Of the 1,115,000 citizens with mental retardation  
12 and their families and communities in this Commonwealth, 67,000  
13 receive residential services in the community, more than 3,000  
14 reside in private intermediate care facilities and 2,400 reside  
15 in State centers; and

16 WHEREAS, The task force under House Resolution 187, Printer's  
17 No.1869 (1997), held five public hearings across this  
18 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] 13 members,  
30 [six] seven from the majority party and [five] six from the

1 minority party; and be it further

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

9       RESOLVED, That the remaining [two] three members from the  
10 majority party be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives and that the remaining [two] three members from  
12 the minority party be appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
13 House 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.