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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 558      Session of  
2000

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INTRODUCED BY ORIE, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPABIANCA, SOLOBAY,  
McNAUGHTON, TRUE, THOMAS, WILT, ARGALL, PHILLIPS, STABACK,  
CORRIGAN, TRICH, McCALL, MELIO, S. MILLER, WOJNAROSKI,  
E. Z. TAYLOR, WILLIAMS, READSHAW, COLAFELLA, PESCI, FRANKEL,  
HARHART, DERMODY, ADOLPH, HARHAI, VAN HORNE, M. COHEN, HORSEY  
AND GRUCELA, AUGUST 30, 2000

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, AUGUST 30, 2000

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## A RESOLUTION

1    Creating a House select committee to study the necessity and  
2       feasibility of requirements for juvenile athletic nonschool  
3       groups to provide criminal background checks.

4       WHEREAS, Reports of adult sexual misconduct toward children  
5       or youth have occurred during several recent nonschool athletic  
6       competitions involving juvenile participants; and

7       WHEREAS, The conduct of programs, events and activities for  
8       juvenile sports participants outside of the school system has  
9       proliferated; and

10       WHEREAS, Parents and guardians entrust their children to the  
11       supervision, management and control of the programs' sponsors,  
12       operators, coaches, trainers, staff, managers and their  
13       assistants; and

14       WHEREAS, The opportunity exists for adults serving in a  
15       supervisory, management or controlling capacity of such a  
16       program, event or activity to harm, endanger, abuse or exploit

1 the juvenile participants of the program or activity; and

2 WHEREAS, A standard of care for student welfare and safety  
3 has already been applied to school personnel under section 111  
4 of the Public School Code of 1949, which requires criminal  
5 background checks for certain offenses of any prospective  
6 employee who will come into contact with a child; and

7 WHEREAS, This standard might be similarly applied to adults  
8 who offer nonschool juvenile athletic programs, events or  
9 activities to the public within this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Criminal background checks of adults operating,  
11 managing or supervising nonschool juvenile athletic programs,  
12 events or activities may be properly performed by the  
13 Pennsylvania State Police or, in the case of out-of-State  
14 residents, the Federal Bureau of Investigation; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That a select committee be created to make a study  
16 of random nonschool organizations or groups which conduct a  
17 juvenile sports event, activity or program within this  
18 Commonwealth for the purposes of determining:

19 (1) The number of juvenile participants.

20 (2) The number of adult supervisors, managers, coaches,  
21 trainers or their assistants who come into any contact with  
22 juvenile participants at an event.

23 (3) A list of the events and their duration conducted  
24 throughout the calendar year.

25 (4) Any formal, written policy of the operators of an  
26 event, activity or program to evaluate current or prospective  
27 employees' background for criminal behavior.

28 (5) The formal, written policy to be followed by the  
29 operators of an event, activity or program whenever a  
30 complaint of mistreatment, injury or abuse is made by a

1 juvenile participant or parent or guardian;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the select committee be composed of seven  
4 members, four of whom shall be members of the majority party  
5 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and  
6 three of whom shall be members of the minority party appointed  
7 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, from  
8 among the members of the House of Representatives; and be it  
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the ordinary and reasonable expenses incurred  
11 by the select committee be paid from accounts under the control  
12 of the Chief Clerk; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the select committee conduct its study and  
14 make a report to the House of Representatives, including its  
15 findings and any recommendations for legislative or regulatory  
16 action, not later than November 30, 2000.