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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 107 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY DEAN, KORTZ, STURLA, D. COSTA, MCCARTER, DAVIDSON,  
CALTAGIRONE, MATZIE, MURT, FREEMAN AND BARBIN,  
FEBRUARY 25, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 25, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to require pro bono  
2 legal service as a condition of admission to the Pennsylvania  
3 Bar.

4 WHEREAS, The practice of law requires commitment to  
5 individuals who lack resources to the legal system; and

6 WHEREAS, The pressing economic situation, nationally and in  
7 Pennsylvania, has reduced access to legal services; and

8 WHEREAS, Rules 6.1 through 6.5 of the Rules of Professional  
9 Conduct (relating to public service), encourage pro bono legal  
10 service; and

11 WHEREAS, Specifically, Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional  
12 Conduct provides that:

13 "A lawyer should render public interest legal service. A  
14 lawyer may discharge this responsibility by providing  
15 professional services at no fee or a reduced fee to persons of  
16 limited means or to public service or charitable groups or  
17 organizations, by service in activities for improving the law,  
18 the legal system or the legal profession, and by financial

1 support for organizations that provide legal services to persons  
2 of limited means";  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Applicants for admission to the Bar of the Supreme  
5 Court of Pennsylvania will achieve educational and social value  
6 by participating in pro bono legal service; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of New York has recently required pro bono  
8 legal service of applicants for admission to the New York State  
9 Bar; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Supreme  
11 Court of Pennsylvania to amend Rule 203(b) of the Pennsylvania  
12 Bar Admission Rules (relating to admission of graduates of  
13 accredited and unaccredited institutions) by requiring up to 50  
14 hours of supervised pro bono service in compliance with Rules  
15 6.1 through 6.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct (relating  
16 to public service); and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
18 the Pennsylvania Board of Law Examiners.