

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 138 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO, V. BROWN, REGAN, D. COSTA,
CUTLER, SABATINA, GRELL, BARBIN, O'NEILL, KULA, STEPHENS,
NEUMAN, DELOZIER, WHITE, KRIEGER, HACKETT, M. K. KELLER,
TOOHIL, SACCONI, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, MUNDY, READSHAW, KORTZ,
TALLMAN, QUINN, FABRIZIO, BARRAR, COHEN, DENLINGER, MCCARTER,
GINGRICH AND ROZZI, MARCH 11, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study of the constable system in Pennsylvania and report its
3 findings and recommendations to the Chief Justice of the
4 Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the Judiciary Committee of
5 the House of Representatives.

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is committed to meaningful
7 reform, including increased oversight and accountability, of the
8 Statewide constable system; and

9 WHEREAS, Constables were among the first public officers in
10 this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Constable training, duties, performance expectations
12 and fees have changed throughout the history of this
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, Act 49 of 2009 consolidated laws relating to
15 constables, who enforce criminal and civil laws, maintain order
16 at election polls and transport prisoners within this
17 Commonwealth; and

1 WHEREAS, The Commission on Crime and Delinquency, through its
2 Bureau of Training Services, trains and certifies constables and
3 deputy constables with annual in-service training required to
4 maintain certification; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council
6 has Critical Incident Stress Management Teams available at the
7 county level to assist constables and deputy constables who are
8 involved in shootings or other critical incidents; and

9 WHEREAS, Constables' Education and Training Board regulations
10 are set forth in Title 37 of the Pennsylvania Code; and

11 WHEREAS, Constable system reforms could include, but are not
12 limited to, expanded court supervision, uniform standards and
13 procedure for reporting misconduct or abuse; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
15 State Government Commission to study and make recommendations on
16 the constable system in Pennsylvania; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission file a
18 report of its findings and recommendations with the Chief
19 Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania and the majority
20 chair and the minority chair of the Judiciary Committee of the
21 House of Representatives not later than one year after the
22 adoption of this resolution.