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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 893 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, BARBIN, PAYNE, CALTAGIRONE, HARPER,  
FREEMAN, D. COSTA, VEREB, COHEN, PASHINSKI, TAYLOR, ROTHMAN,  
KIRKLAND, HEFFLEY, WARD, JAMES, SCHLOSSBERG, McNEILL,  
V. BROWN, DRISCOLL, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, DONATUCCI, GIBBONS,  
SAYLOR, STAATS, MILNE AND BURNS, MAY 18, 2016

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 18, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study and publish a report on the benefits, costs and  
3 drawbacks of alternative opioid dependence treatment programs  
4 that utilize Federal Food and Drug Administration-approved  
5 medications.

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania families are at the front lines of the  
7 opiate epidemic in this Commonwealth, with approximately seven  
8 individuals dying each day from opioid-induced overdoses; and

9 WHEREAS, The opioid problem in this Commonwealth has grown to  
10 epidemic proportions and is a major health hazard for all  
11 Pennsylvanians; and

12 WHEREAS, We, as a community, must stop simply talking about  
13 the issue and begin looking for viable options to combat this  
14 disease and provide individuals with all avenues for recovery;  
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
17 State Government Commission to conduct a study and publish a  
18 report on the benefits, costs and drawbacks of alternative

1 opioid dependence treatment programs that utilize Federal Food  
2 and Drug Administration-approved medications; and be it further  
3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission examine  
4 the following for its study:

5 (1) The effectiveness of treating opioid dependence with  
6 alternate medications, including the three Federal Food and  
7 Drug Administration-approved medications: methadone,  
8 naltrexone and buprenorphine.

9 (2) The number of treatment providers that are currently  
10 using all three Federal Food and Drug Administration-  
11 approved medications for the treatment of opioid dependence.

12 (3) The effectiveness of alternative treatments,  
13 including, but not limited to, positive reinforcement  
14 therapy.

15 (4) The current standards of care that opioid dependence  
16 treatment providers are following in this Commonwealth.

17 (5) The costs associated with opioid dependence  
18 treatments.

19 (6) Potential positive and negative outcomes of each  
20 opioid dependence treatment.

21 (7) How surrounding states are combating opioid  
22 dependence in comparison with the current methods in this  
23 Commonwealth.

24 (8) The feasibility of reopening closed State hospitals  
25 as opioid dependence treatment facilities;  
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission include  
28 in its report its findings from the study and any  
29 recommendations; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue

1 its report to the General Assembly within six months of the  
2 adoption of this resolution.