
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 267 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, SABATINA, TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF,
FARNESE, COSTA, FONTANA, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, STEFANO,
DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, BAKER, YAW, LEACH,
BROOKS, WHITE, EICHELBERGER, McGARRIGLE, WILEY, AUMENT,
GORDNER, MENSCH, HAYWOOD AND WAGNER, JANUARY 28, 2016

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, JANUARY 28, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to study issues relating to the need for,
3 availability of and access to effective drug addiction
4 treatment in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, Abuse and illegal use of drugs directly affects
6 thousands of residents of this Commonwealth every day, placing
7 severe financial, emotional and other strains on families,
8 businesses and communities; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 925,000 residents of this Commonwealth are
10 estimated to have drug or alcohol disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, National studies project that one in four people
12 with a substance addiction will die as a result of the
13 addiction; and

14 WHEREAS, The cost of addiction is estimated to be more than
15 \$700 billion a year nationally from the related crime, lost work
16 productivity and health care; and

17 WHEREAS, Decreased funding of inpatient treatment has made

1 programs longer than 28 days increasingly rare despite research
2 showing longer care is commonly required for addiction such as
3 heroin and opioids; and

4 WHEREAS, More than 2,400 people in this Commonwealth died
5 from drug overdoses in 2014, more than twice the number of
6 deaths by automobile accidents and more than four times the
7 number of murders from all means; and

8 WHEREAS, Studies indicate that as many as 80% of criminal
9 offenders nationally have substance abuse issues; and

10 WHEREAS, Every dollar spent on treatment is estimated to
11 result in up to \$11 in savings to the public and in medical
12 costs; and

13 WHEREAS, There is a reported shortfall of more than 70,000
14 treatment spaces in this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, Only about one out of every eight residents of this
16 Commonwealth who are in need of addiction treatment is able to
17 access it; and

18 WHEREAS, Access, infrastructure and funding affect the
19 ability of a system to provide needed treatment; and

20 WHEREAS, A variety of procedures and formats are used to
21 treat addiction, including medication-assisted treatment and
22 cognitive behavioral therapy; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
24 Commission to establish an advisory committee suitable to the
25 goals and purposes of this resolution; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee include representatives
27 of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Department of
28 Corrections, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department
29 of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human
30 Services, Insurance Department, Administrative Office of

1 Pennsylvania Courts, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, private
2 organizations that represent general medical hospitals in this
3 Commonwealth, addiction treatment programs in this Commonwealth
4 and insurers who market health care policies in this
5 Commonwealth, addiction treatment organizations and programs,
6 including medical specialists in addiction treatment, recovering
7 addicts and family members of addicts, the Pennsylvania
8 Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators, the
9 Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Pennsylvania
10 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania Coalition
11 Against Rape, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association
12 and others whose expertise or experience would facilitate the
13 work of the Joint State Government Commission and advisory
14 committee; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
16 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and
17 comprehensive study of issues relating to the need for,
18 availability of and access to effective drug addiction treatment
19 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the study review all of the following:

21 (1) Locations and types of treatment programs, including
22 length of inpatient programs and outpatient follow-up.

23 (2) The need for additional treatment resources,
24 including additional public funding.

25 (3) The opportunity for residents of this Commonwealth
26 to access effective treatment.

27 (4) The prevalence and practical impact of using private
28 or public funding for treatment.

29 (5) The identification of particular forms of treatment
30 and whether it is possible to compare the effectiveness of

1 particular forms of treatment.

2 (6) How to assist consumers in locating and determining
3 the effectiveness and value of different types of treatment
4 and programs.

5 (7) How to encourage and foster emerging, promising
6 forms of treatment and best practices in this Commonwealth.

7 (8) Any other relevant issues the Joint State Government
8 Commission and advisory committee identify as helpful to
9 improving the availability of effective treatment in this
10 Commonwealth;

11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
13 include a process providing for reasonable public comment and
14 input on issues of treatment access, availability and
15 effectiveness; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations
17 for changes to statutes, practices, policies, programs and
18 procedures relating to drug addiction treatment; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
21 report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations not
22 later than 18 months from the adoption of this resolution.