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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 403      Session of  
2002

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INTRODUCED BY YEWCIC, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELFANTI, M. COHEN,  
CREIGHTON, GABIG, GEORGE, HARHAI, HERMAN, HORSEY, KIRKLAND,  
McGEEHAN, JAMES, LESCOVITZ, PISTELLA, ROBERTS, SHANER,  
STABACK, TIGUE, WOJNAROSKI, KELLER, MICHLOVIC, READSHAW,  
SATHER, SOLOBAY, THOMAS, TRICH AND YOUNGBLOOD,  
JANUARY 29, 2002

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JANUARY 29, 2002

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Health to conduct a study to determine  
2 whether the department should establish an additional Level  
3 III laboratory in western Pennsylvania for the testing of  
4 samples suspected of containing anthrax spores or other  
5 biological agents or develop a transportation system to  
6 safely transport samples from all areas of this Commonwealth  
7 to the existing Level III laboratory, whichever is more cost-  
8 effective or efficient.

9 WHEREAS, Since September 11, 2001, there have been several  
10 bioterror attacks in this nation where anthrax spores were sent  
11 through letters in the United States mail; and

12 WHEREAS, The anthrax attacks caused the death of five  
13 innocent people, infected at least 18 others, placed hundreds of  
14 their coworkers in fear of contracting anthrax and led the  
15 entire nation to be seriously concerned about the handling of  
16 mail or suspicious substances that might cause further  
17 outbreaks; and

18 WHEREAS, It is vital to the health, safety and welfare of the  
19 citizens of this nation that adequate testing facilities be

1 operated to test for the presence of anthrax spores and other  
2 biological agents in mail and other suspicious substances; and

3 WHEREAS, Certain laboratories, identified as "Level III" and  
4 certified by the Centers for Disease Control, are authorized to  
5 test for anthrax and other biological agents; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Health operates only one Level III  
7 laboratory in eastern Pennsylvania, and law enforcement officers  
8 in rural areas and the central and western parts of this  
9 Commonwealth must transport specimens suspected of containing  
10 anthrax spores to that laboratory; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a need to determine whether the Department  
12 of Health should establish an additional Level III laboratory in  
13 western Pennsylvania for the testing of samples suspected of  
14 containing anthrax spores or other biological agents or develop  
15 a transportation system to safely transport samples from all  
16 areas of this Commonwealth to the existing Level III laboratory,  
17 whichever is more cost-effective or efficient; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the  
19 Department of Health to conduct a study to determine whether the  
20 department should establish an additional Level III laboratory  
21 in western Pennsylvania for the testing of samples suspected of  
22 containing anthrax spores or other biological agents or develop  
23 a transportation system to safely transport samples from all  
24 areas of this Commonwealth to the existing Level III laboratory,  
25 whichever is more cost-effective or efficient.