
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 45

Session of
1979

INTRODUCED BY RICHARDSON, OLIVER, WHITE, IRVIS, BARBER, DUMAS,
HARPER, REED, BORSKI, PUCCIARELLI, COHEN, ITKIN, COWELL,
KERNICK, TRELLO, PISTELLA, SEVENTY, DAWIDA, MURPHY AND
RHODES, MARCH 28, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 28, 1979

In the House of Representatives, March 28, 1979

1 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a long standing
2 commitment to those who are mentally ill and mentally retarded;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, A significant portion of the treatment, care and
5 service delivery occurs in an institutional setting; and

6 WHEREAS, The institutions have come under increasing
7 criticism relative to the care and treatment given and the cost
8 of that care and treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Juvenile delinquents have been committed by the
10 courts to these institutions; and

11 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives has not had a
12 systematic study and review of mental health and mental
13 retardation service delivery within the last several years;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Health and Welfare Committee conduct an
16 investigation of all programs and procedures relating to mental

1 health and mental retardation, including but not limited to
2 institutional programs; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the committee may hold hearings, take
4 testimony, and make its investigations at such places as it
5 deems necessary. It may issue subpoenas under the hand and seal
6 of its chairman commanding any person to appear before it and to
7 answer questions touching matters properly being inquired into
8 by the committee and to produce such books, papers, records and
9 documents as the committee deems necessary. Such subpoenas may
10 be served upon any person and shall have the force and effect of
11 subpoenas issued out of the courts of this Commonwealth. Any
12 person who willfully neglects or refuses to testify before the
13 committee or to produce any books, papers, records or documents,
14 shall be subject to the penalties provided by the laws of the
15 Commonwealth in such case. Each member of the committee shall
16 have power to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses
17 appearing before the committee; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That within 30 calendar days after the committee
19 has made its report, the chairman of the committee shall cause a
20 record of all expenses incurred by the committee, or the members
21 thereof, which are payable at Commonwealth expense, to be filed
22 with the Speaker of the House and the Speaker shall cause the
23 same to be entered in the journal thereof. No expenses incurred
24 by the committee or any member thereof shall be reimbursable by
25 the Chief Clerk unless such expense shall first have been
26 included as an expense item in the record heretofore required;
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Health and Welfare Committee make a report
29 of its findings to the House of Representatives as soon as
30 possible following the adoption of this resolution, including

1 drafts of any legislation necessary to implement its findings.