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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 146

Session of  
1987

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INTRODUCED BY S. H. SMITH, LANGTRY, BLAUM, GAMBLE, NAHILL,  
BARLEY, FOX, HAGARTY, GODSHALL, JACKSON, DIETTERICK, FARGO,  
NOYE, DISTLER, HECKLER, HERSHEY, E. Z. TAYLOR, SAURMAN, BUNT,  
TRELLO, CLYMER, BOWLEY, BOWSER AND HALUSKA, JULY 1, 1987

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, JULY 2, 1987

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### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to appoint a special commission to develop  
2 recommendations for dealing with the impact of strikes on the  
3 educational process in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, The effect of lost instructional time due to school  
5 work stoppages on the educational welfare of the students of  
6 this Commonwealth is immeasurable; and

7 WHEREAS, Recent reports have pointed to this Commonwealth's  
8 history of work stoppages, conflict and strikes as a deterrent  
9 to economic development. As part of its 1987 "Action Agenda for  
10 Pennsylvania," the Pennsylvania Business Roundtable stated that,  
11 as an issue, "School strikes.....must be addressed"; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of  
13 school strikes, having endured 505 strikes since the enactment  
14 of the act of July 23, 1970 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the  
15 Public Employe Relations Act, averaging 30 such work stoppages  
16 per year. Public school strikes account for more than 65% of the  
17 total strikes in the State; and

1       WHEREAS, Business interests, school officials, parental  
2 groups, and even the original framer of Act 195, have called for  
3 governmental action to limit the impact of teacher strikes on  
4 the educational process; and

5       WHEREAS, While disagreement exists on specific remedies to  
6 address this issue, a critical need exists to examine the  
7 problem of teacher strikes and their negative impact on the  
8 educational climate of this Commonwealth. The 1987 long-range  
9 economic strategy report by the Pennsylvania Business  
10 Roundtable, Partnership for Pennsylvania Development,  
11 recommended that, "the leadership of both labor and management  
12 in the public school setting work together to improve  
13 Pennsylvania's record"; therefore be it

14       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor  
15 to appoint a special commission to study the issue of school  
16 strikes in this Commonwealth in order to recommend viable  
17 alternatives, both legislative and non-legislative, to curtail  
18 the negative effects of such strikes on the welfare of the  
19 students of this Commonwealth's public schools, on the entire  
20 educational process, and on the economic competitiveness of the  
21 State; and be it further

22       RESOLVED, That the membership of the commission be appointed  
23 by the Governor and include: the Secretary of Education, who  
24 shall serve as its Chairman; the Secretary of Labor and  
25 Industry; the Chairman of the State Board of Education, or his  
26 designee, who must be a member of the State Board; four members  
27 of the General Assembly, one each to be appointed by the Speaker  
28 of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the  
29 House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the  
30 Senate and the Minority Leader of the Senate; two

1 representatives each from the Pennsylvania State Education  
2 Association and the Pennsylvania Federation of Teachers; two  
3 representatives designated by the Pennsylvania School Boards  
4 Association; two representatives of the Pennsylvania Association  
5 of School Administrators; and six representatives of the general  
6 public, two of whom shall represent parental interests, two of  
7 whom shall be recognized experts in the field of public sector  
8 labor relations and none of whom shall be members of any of the  
9 previously designated agencies or organizations; and be it  
10 further

11       RESOLVED, That appropriate staff for the commission be  
12 provided by the Department of Education; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the commission report its findings and  
14 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within  
15 one year of its formation; and be it further

16       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
17 the Honorable Robert P. Casey, Governor, Commonwealth of  
18 Pennsylvania.