

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 293 Session of
1992

INTRODUCED BY GAMBLE, D. W. SNYDER, REBER, KOSINSKI, TANGRETTI, FARMER, BOYES, LEH, MRKONIC, LAUGHLIN, ANDERSON, TRELLO, FARGO, LAWLESS, S. H. SMITH, E. Z. TAYLOR, PITTS, GIGLIOTTI, DeLUCA, FEE, PETRONE, CARLSON, BUNT, JOHNSON, DEMPSEY, HASAY, STEIGHNER, STAIRS, FREIND, WOZNIAK, SCHEETZ, KING, LANGTRY, CLYMER, KAISER, MERRY, BROWN, ARMSTRONG, TRICH, GEIST, MARKOSEK, NOYE, OLASZ, DALEY, BIRMELIN, NYCE, CLARK, BLACK, TELEK, FLICK, KRUSZEWSKI, HERSHEY, M. N. WRIGHT, GALLEN, GRUPPO, BARLEY, JADLOWIEC AND VROON, MARCH 31, 1992

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 31, 1992

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor, the Secretary of Education and the State
2 Board of Education to delay consideration and implementation
3 of proposed amendments to Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code.

4 WHEREAS, There is major concern and controversy expressed by
5 the citizens of this Commonwealth regarding the State Board of
6 Education's proposal to amend 22 Pa. Code, Chs. 3 (relating to
7 student testing), 5 (relating to curriculum requirements) and 6
8 (relating to vocational education), as set forth at 22 Pa.B.
9 5207 (November 2, 1991); and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Education is disregarding current
11 law by implementing portions of the proposed regulations
12 pertaining to student assessment in violation of State law
13 related to the regulatory review process; and

14 WHEREAS, The Department of Education is disregarding its own
15 policy as defined in Basic Education Circular 8-90 pertaining to

1 student rights in testing; and

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Education has misrepresented to
3 parents the confidentiality of student assessments by indicating
4 that identification information would not be included on test
5 materials; and

6 WHEREAS, The rights of parents, who are the primary educators
7 of their own children, are violated by not being able to easily
8 obtain access to sample tests, information about testing, test
9 results and utilization of test data; and

10 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has not provided a
11 meaningful fiscal assessment of the cost of these proposed
12 regulations and standards to taxpayers of Pennsylvania and the
13 school boards of this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth currently suffers from major
15 budgetary problems, and the Governor has expressed a sincere
16 desire to minimize mandates on the schools of this Commonwealth;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, There are real questions about the validity of
19 outcome measures as a fundamental principle for the
20 reorganization of our schools; and

21 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has made a
22 determination to delay action on the learning outcomes portion
23 of Chapter 5 of the proposed regulations, thereby separating the
24 outcomes from the framework for assessment and curriculum; and

25 WHEREAS, This action ties this Commonwealth, including
26 students, parents, teachers and administrators, to unknown
27 educational requirements; and

28 WHEREAS, Outcome education mandates that students must
29 demonstrate mastery of the goals of quality education, and most
30 of these goals cannot be measured objectively; and

1 WHEREAS, There is no explanation provided by the State Board
2 of Education on how goals and outcomes relate to student
3 assessment, promotion and graduation; and

4 WHEREAS, Parental interests were not meaningfully represented
5 in the review process for establishment of the goals of quality
6 education, learning outcomes and school reorganization; and

7 WHEREAS, The Department of Education has usurped the
8 Constitutional rights of parents by denying them the opportunity
9 to withdraw their children from instruction that conflicts with
10 their religious beliefs; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
12 Governor, the Secretary of Education and the State Board of
13 Education to delay consideration and implementation of proposed
14 amendments to Title 22 of the Pennsylvania Code prior to a
15 thorough and complete investigation of the substance and process
16 of these proposed regulations by a special legislative committee
17 composed of the majority and minority chairmen of the
18 Appropriations, Judiciary, Finance, Education, Health and
19 Welfare and Local Government Committees.