

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 368 Session of  
1996

INTRODUCED BY O'BRIEN, MCGEEHAN AND BUTKOVITZ, MAY 8, 1996

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
AS AMENDED, MAY 13, 1996

## A RESOLUTION

1 ~~Establishing a select committee~~ DIRECTING THE HEALTH AND HUMAN <—  
2 SERVICES COMMITTEE to study changes in the delivery of  
3 nursing services and the resulting impact on the quality of  
4 acute care in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, There is reason to believe that hospitals in this  
6 Commonwealth are replacing nurses with less trained, lower paid  
7 aides; and

8 WHEREAS, A recent investigation has revealed evidence of  
9 severe adverse effect on health care in this Commonwealth as a  
10 result of this "downskilling"; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives hereby ~~establish~~ <—  
12 ~~a select committee~~ DIRECT THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES <—  
13 COMMITTEE to study changes in the delivery of nursing services  
14 and the resulting impact on the quality of acute care ~~in this~~ <—  
15 Commonwealth. ~~The committee shall consist of 11 members of the~~  
16 ~~House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the~~  
17 ~~House of Representatives, six members of the majority party and~~  
18 ~~five members of the minority party; and be it further~~ IN THIS <—

1 COMMONWEALTH; AND BE IT FURTHER

2 RESOLVED, That the ~~select-committee~~ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES <—  
3 COMMITTEE shall:

4 (1) Examine the extent of enforcement and violation of  
5 current regulations and standards of nursing practice.

6 (2) Examine the extent to which the hospital  
7 accreditation process adequately considers the "downskilling"  
8 of acute care providers.

9 (3) Examine the adverse effect of this practice on the  
10 capacity of physicians to render quality acute care.

11 (4) Examine nurse/patient ratios and their significance  
12 for medical care;

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Department of Health, the State Board of  
15 Nursing and all other agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide  
16 assistance upon request as the ~~select-committee~~ HEALTH AND HUMAN <—  
17 SERVICES COMMITTEE may deem appropriate; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the ~~committee~~ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES <—  
19 COMMITTEE may hold hearings, take testimony and make its  
20 investigations at such places as it deems necessary in this  
21 Commonwealth. Each member of the committee shall have the power  
22 to administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing  
23 before the committee; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the ~~committee~~ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES <—  
25 COMMITTEE make a report of its findings and recommendations to  
26 the House of Representatives on or before November 30, 1996.