
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 148 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY EACHUS, FAIRCHILD, STABACK, MUNDY, BEBKO-JONES,
COLAIZZO, TRAVAGLIO, WALKO, PESCI, SANTONI, GODSHALL, McCALL,
BLAUM, GORDNER, OLASZ, MICHLOVIC, SCRIMENTI, BELARDI,
SAINATO, STURLA, RUBLEY, ROONEY, TIGUE, KENNEY, HASAY,
TANGRETTI, SHANER, HALUSKA, LUCYK, MELIO, CASORIO, TRELLO,
HUTCHINSON, JOSEPHS, WOGAN, HENNESSEY, GRUITZA, BROWNE,
STEELMAN, RAMOS, CURRY, YOUNGBLOOD, BOSCOLA, CAPPABIANCA,
THOMAS, EVANS AND JAROLIN, APRIL 29, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 29, 1997

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Health and Human Services Committee to conduct
2 hearings throughout this Commonwealth to study and determine
3 the impact of the Department of Public Welfare's five-year
4 plan to redesign Pennsylvania's mental retardation service
5 system.

6 WHEREAS, Quality and affordable care, support of family and
7 friends, financial resources and State support are necessary for
8 Pennsylvania's mentally retarded citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, Families and communities in Pennsylvania rely on
10 State mental retardation centers for the quality care of this
11 Commonwealth's 3,000 mentally retarded citizens currently being
12 served by the centers; and

13 WHEREAS, A subcommittee of the Department of Public Welfare's
14 Office of Mental Retardation has initiated the planning process
15 to redesign the Commonwealth's system for meeting the needs of
16 people with mental retardation and their families; and

1 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare's plan proposes the
2 closure of mental retardation centers, which closure will have a
3 significant impact on the safety and economic strength of the
4 communities being served by the centers; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 1,500 mentally retarded Pennsylvanians
6 would be relocated to alternative living situations and 2,100
7 individuals would be released from private community-based
8 facilities if the Department of Public Welfare's plan were
9 implemented; and

10 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare's proposal for
11 redesigning the remaining mental retardation centers in the
12 State has created questions and concerns from friends and
13 families of patients in those centers, members of the community
14 and employees of those facilities; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Health and Human Services Committee
16 investigate the Department of Public Welfare's five-year plan to
17 redesign Pennsylvania's mental retardation services system; and
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the committee conduct hearings, gather
20 testimony and make investigations at such places as it deems
21 necessary in this Commonwealth. Each member of the committee
22 shall have the power to administer oaths and affirmations to
23 witnesses appearing before the committee; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the committee make a report of its findings
25 and recommendations to the House of Representatives no later
26 than October 30, 1997.