

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 419 Session of  
1998

INTRODUCED BY O'BRIEN, E. Z. TAYLOR, GLADECK, FICHTER, TRICH,  
BROWNE, COY, CAPPABIANCA, PESCI, HERMAN, CALTAGIRONE, ORIE,  
MAITLAND, READSHAW, LAUGHLIN, KIRKLAND, BELARDI, BATTISTO,  
OLASZ, HALUSKA, HORSEY, WALKO, TRELLO, STABACK, JOSEPHS,  
YOUNGBLOOD, CIVERA, SEYFERT, JAMES, HERSHEY, RAMOS,  
J. TAYLOR, MAHER AND SAYLOR, APRIL 1, 1998

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
AS AMENDED, MAY 6, 1998

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 ~~Forming a commission~~ DIRECTING THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT <—  
2 COMMISSION TO CREATE A WORKING GROUP comprised of individuals  
3 with expertise in biomedical research, health care, economic  
4 development and higher education to assess the level and  
5 nature of biomedical research currently conducted by the  
6 ~~State's~~ COMMONWEALTH'S universities and teaching hospitals <—  
7 and to recommend specific and realistic actions for  
8 increasing Pennsylvania's share of Federal and private sector  
9 biomedical research funding to enhance the ~~State's~~ <—  
10 COMMONWEALTH'S health care system as well as contribute to <—  
11 the economy.

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's academic institutions are recognized  
13 as leaders in identifying and researching public health problems  
14 and developing treatments necessary to improve the quality of  
15 health care; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's institutions of higher learning and  
17 biomedical companies are drawing more than \$681 million in  
18 fiscal year 1997-98 from the National Institutes of Health for  
19 biomedical research; and

20 WHEREAS, Biomedical research initiatives are vital to

1 maintaining the quality and strength of Pennsylvania's health  
2 care system; and

3 WHEREAS, The health care industry, including research and  
4 teaching hospitals, plays a vital role in Pennsylvania's  
5 economy, employing more than 550,000 people; and

6 WHEREAS, Recent downsizing trends in the State's  
7 COMMONWEALTH'S hospitals have resulted in the displacement of  
8 more than 2,000 health care workers; and

9 WHEREAS, The Executive Branch and General Assembly have  
10 aggressively undertaken economic development and job creation  
11 initiatives; and

12 WHEREAS, Academic biomedical research results in a more  
13 vigorous biomedical industry with the development of new  
14 procedures and medications; and

15 WHEREAS, An increased supply of Federal and private funding  
16 would support current research efforts to enhance the quality of  
17 health care and would contribute to the economic development of  
18 this State COMMONWEALTH through job creation; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the House of  
20 Representatives direct ~~that a 21 member commission be created to~~  
21 ~~assess~~ THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO SELECT A WORKING  
22 GROUP TO REPORT ON the level and nature of biomedical research  
23 currently conducted by ~~the State's~~ PENNSYLVANIA'S universities  
24 and teaching hospitals; ~~and be it further~~ AND HOW THOSE EFFORTS  
25 COMPARE TO THE EFFORTS OF OTHER STATES; AND BE IT FURTHER

26 ~~RESOLVED, That the commission examine Pennsylvania's current~~  
27 ~~research areas and breakthrough research contributions and~~  
28 ~~compare those efforts to other states; and be it further~~

29 RESOLVED, THAT THE FINAL REPORT RECOMMEND WAYS FOR THE  
30 COMMONWEALTH TO ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH; AND

1 BE IT FURTHER

2 RESOLVED, That the ~~commission recommend~~ FINAL REPORT ALSO <—  
3 INCLUDE specific and realistic ~~actions~~ RECOMMENDATIONS for <—  
4 increasing Pennsylvania's share of Federal and private sector  
5 biomedical research funding to enhance the ~~State's~~ <—  
6 COMMONWEALTH'S health care system ~~as well as~~ AND contribute to <—  
7 the economy; and be it further

8 ~~RESOLVED, That the commission also recommend ways for the~~ <—  
9 ~~Commonwealth to encourage the growth of biomedical research; and~~  
10 ~~be it further~~

11 ~~RESOLVED, That the first commission meeting take place within~~  
12 ~~60 days of the approval of this resolution, at which time the~~  
13 ~~commission will elect a chairperson; and be it further~~

14 ~~RESOLVED, That the commission hold hearings, take testimony~~  
15 ~~and make its investigation at such places as it deems necessary~~  
16 ~~in this Commonwealth; and be it further~~

17 RESOLVED, That the ~~commission be comprised~~ WORKING GROUP <—  
18 SELECTED BY THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION CONSIST of the  
19 presidents or a designee of the following institutions: the  
20 Pennsylvania Chamber of ~~Commerce~~ BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, THE <—  
21 HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA, The  
22 Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine and the Hershey  
23 Medical Center, University of Pittsburgh, University of  
24 Pittsburgh Medical Center System, Children's Hospital of  
25 Pittsburgh, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Thomas  
26 Jefferson University, Allegheny University of Health Services,  
27 Temple University School of Medicine and Temple University  
28 Health System, Shriners Hospitals for Children in Philadelphia  
29 and Erie, St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, and the  
30 Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore of the Senate and,       <—  
2       the Speaker of the House of Representatives, THE MINORITY LEADER       <—  
3       OF THE SENATE AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF  
4       REPRESENTATIVES shall each appoint two at-large commission  
5       members, AND THE MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND       <—  
6       WELFARE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
7       HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
8       REPRESENTATIVES SHALL EACH APPOINT ONE AT-LARGE MEMBER, and the  
9       chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and  
10      the chairman of the House of Representatives Health and Human  
11      Services Committee shall each appoint one at-large commission  
12      member; and be it further  
13      ~~RESOLVED, That members of the commission shall not receive       <—~~  
14      ~~compensation for their services except for standard travel and~~  
15      ~~expenses, and that such expenses shall be paid for from funds~~  
16      ~~appropriated to the Joint State Government Commission; and be it~~  
17      ~~further~~  
18      ~~RESOLVED, That this initiative shall receive staff and other~~  
19      ~~administrative support from the Joint State Government~~  
20      ~~Commission; and be it further~~  
21      ~~RESOLVED, That the commission report its finding and~~  
22      ~~recommendations for appropriate action to the Senate Public~~  
23      ~~Health and Welfare Committee and the House of Representatives~~  
24      ~~Health and Human Services Committee by September 30, 1998.~~  
25      RESOLVED, THAT THE WORKING GROUP REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND       <—  
26      RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.