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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 96

Session of  
2001

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INTRODUCED BY BOYES, TIGUE, HENNESSEY, FICHTER, STAIRS,  
COLAFELLA, BARD, BEBKO-JONES, BUNT, CAPPELLI, L. I. COHEN,  
M. COHEN, CORRIGAN, COSTA, CRUZ, CURRY, DALLY, DeLUCA,  
DERMODY, DeWEESE, D. EVANS, FORCIER, FRANKEL, FREEMAN,  
GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HASAY, HERMAN, KIRKLAND,  
KREBS, LEWIS, MACKERETH, MANN, McILHATTAN, McNAUGHTON, MELIO,  
MICOZZIE, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUNDY, PIPPY, PRESTON,  
RAYMOND, RUBLEY, SAINATO, SCHRODER, SCHULER, SCRIMENTI,  
SHANER, B. SMITH, STABACK, STEELMAN, STERN, STETLER, STURLA,  
SURRA, THOMAS, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON, C. WILLIAMS,  
WRIGHT AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 14, 2001

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MARCH 14, 2001

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## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Committee on Education to conduct a thorough study  
2 of charter schools.

3 WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted legislation, Act 22 of  
4 1997, authorizing the creation of charter schools; and

5 WHEREAS, The act was intended to foster choice within the  
6 public school system and to explore the potential for charter  
7 schools to operate with fewer State regulations and controls;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Nearly 70 charter schools have been created since  
10 the act took effect; and

11 WHEREAS, Local school officials have reported numerous  
12 concerns with the implementation of the act, including, but not  
13 limited to the following issues: prescribed payments to charter

1 schools that often exceed actual charter school operating costs  
2 and that typically produce no commensurate reduction in school  
3 district expenditures, lack of notice of the formation of  
4 charter schools and "cyber" charter schools that draw students  
5 from areas outside the chartering district, lack of State  
6 regulation of "cyber" education programs, limited access to  
7 records by school districts that fund charter schools, State  
8 Charter School Appeal Board decisions and procedures and the  
9 role of for-profit businesses in organizing not-for-profit  
10 charter schools; therefore be it

11       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
12 Committee on Education to conduct a formal evaluation of Act 22  
13 of 1997, in order to examine matters involving charter schools  
14 and propose legislative action to remedy any problems found as a  
15 result of the evaluation within six months of adoption of this  
16 resolution by the House of Representatives; and be it further

17       RESOLVED, That the Committee on Education may hire an  
18 independent consulting group to assist in the formal evaluation  
19 of Act 22 of 1997, with related fees being paid by the Office of  
20 the Chief Clerk.