

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 123 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY MANN, SOLOBAY, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRENNAN,
CREIGHTON, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARRIS,
KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PHILLIPS,
READSHAW, SAYLOR, SIPTROTH, VULAKOVICH, WHEATLEY, HENNESSEY,
KORTZ, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD AND SEIP, MARCH 6, 2009

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 25, 2009

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to create a pain
2 task force and a pain task force advisory committee to
3 promote professional and public education and awareness and
4 to improve the quality of care for the residents of this
5 Commonwealth who are suffering from pain.

6 WHEREAS, Pain can be classified as acute pain, such as pain
7 following injury, acute medical illness or surgery, chronic
8 pain, including, but not limited to, chronic low-back pain,
9 fibromyalgia, headache and chronic illness, such as lupus or
10 multiple sclerosis, cancer-related pain and pain in patients
11 with life-limiting illness; and

12 WHEREAS, Unrelieved acute pain increases suffering, can slow
13 recovery and is associated with an increased risk of
14 complications, including death; and

15 WHEREAS, Unrelieved acute pain is common, with up to 40% of
16 postoperative patients reporting inadequate pain relief; and

17 WHEREAS, As many as 15% to 25% of adults outside of hospitals

1 and other medical settings suffer from chronic pain at any given
2 time, a figure that increases to 50% in adults 65 years of age
3 and older; and

4 WHEREAS, Chronic pain is associated with significant
5 suffering, including compromise of physical and psychosocial
6 functioning, such as depression and anxiety; and

7 WHEREAS, Chronic pain leads to lost or compromised workdays
8 that equate to an estimated \$50 to \$70 billion in the United
9 States per year; and

10 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of people who have cancer suffer from pain
11 caused by the disease or its treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, People who have advanced cancer describe their pain
13 as moderate to severe 40% to 50% of the time and as very severe
14 25% to 30% of the time; and

15 WHEREAS, There are now several published clinical practice
16 guidelines regarding the diagnosis and treatment of acute,
17 chronic and cancer-related pain and pain associated with life-
18 limiting illness, and the Congress of the United States declared
19 2001-2010 as the "Decade of Pain Control and Research"; and

20 WHEREAS, In spite of the availability of published treatment
21 guidelines, many residents of this Commonwealth continue to
22 suffer from poorly controlled pain due to a variety of reasons;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
25 direct the Joint State Government Commission to create a pain
26 task force consisting of two members appointed by the President
27 pro tempore of the Senate, two members appointed by the Minority
28 Leader of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of
29 the House of Representatives and two members appointed by the
30 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the task force create an advisory committee
3 to assist in accomplishing its responsibilities and consisting
4 of members with knowledge and expertise regarding pain research,
5 prevention, treatment, educational programs and consumer needs;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of one
8 representative from and designated by the Department of Health,
9 the Office of Attorney General, the Pennsylvania Medical
10 Society, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, the
11 American College of Physicians, the Pennsylvania Society of
12 Oncology and Hematology, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse
13 Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists,
14 Inc., the American Society for Pain Management Nursing, ~~the~~ ←
15 ~~Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association,~~ the Pennsylvania
16 Psychiatric Society, the American Cancer Society, the
17 Pennsylvania Cancer Pain Initiative, the Arthritis Foundation,
18 The Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, the National Multiple
19 Sclerosis Society, the American Pain Society, the American Pain
20 Foundation, the Pennsylvania Homecare Association, THE HOSPITAL ←
21 AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PENNSYLVANIA
22 HOSPICE NETWORK, the Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association or
23 the Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania, the Association for
24 Professional Acupuncture in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Pain
25 Coalition, THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION, ONE ←
26 REPRESENTATIVE THAT IS A PHARMACIST LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD
27 OF PHARMACY TO ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY IN THIS
28 COMMONWEALTH, one representative of the Pennsylvania
29 rehabilitation industry and two representatives of the
30 biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the task force present to the General Assembly
2 a report evaluating the barriers to good pain care in this
3 Commonwealth and make suggestions for actions to improve pain
4 care within this Commonwealth; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the task force study the feasibility of
6 developing and implementing a comprehensive Statewide public
7 education program on pain management to:

8 (1) Promote public awareness regarding proper pain
9 management.

10 (2) Promote understanding of the importance of early
11 diagnosis and proper treatment and management.

12 (3) Improve the delivery of appropriate information,
13 programs and services and access to the most effective
14 treatments for pain.

15 (4) Encourage research into the nature, cause and
16 treatment of pain;

17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the task force, in accomplishing its missions,
19 take into account guidelines that have been promulgated by
20 nationally recognized organizations that deal with pain; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That the task force recommend an appropriate means
23 of disseminating information to the professional community and
24 the general public; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the task force recommend sources of funds to
26 carry out its recommendations; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the task force report its findings directly to
28 the General Assembly no later than one year after the adoption
29 of this resolution.