

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 817 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY DEASY, BISHOP, CASORIO, CLYMER, COHEN, DALEY,
DONATUCCI, FARRY, HARKINS, JOSEPHS, KOTIK, MAHONEY, MANN,
READSHAW AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 25, 2010

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LIQUOR CONTROL, MAY 25, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to study the risks
2 of consuming alcoholic energy drinks and consuming high
3 caffeine energy drinks together with alcohol.

4 WHEREAS, The consumption of alcoholic energy drinks has
5 increased in recent years; and

6 WHEREAS, Mixing alcohol with high caffeine energy drinks has
7 become a popular, but potentially life-threatening habit among
8 students and young adults; and

9 WHEREAS, Recent data indicate that persons who consume high
10 caffeine energy drinks with alcohol are twice as likely to be
11 injured during a bout of drinking, to need medical care, to ride
12 with a drunk driver, to be sexually assaulted or to engage in
13 risky and violent behavior; and

14 WHEREAS, High caffeine levels tend to mask the effects of
15 excess alcohol, impair judgment and reaction times and make the
16 person unaware that he is intoxicated; and

17 WHEREAS, Alcoholic energy drinks and high caffeine energy
18 drinks have become a multibillion dollar industry and some

1 energy drinks that are laced with alcohol are marketed to young
2 people; and

3 WHEREAS, The consumption of alcohol or prescribed medication
4 with such an energy drink exacerbates the adverse effect of
5 psychoactive drugs; and

6 WHEREAS, The consumption of high caffeine energy drinks with
7 alcohol has been linked to significant health and behavioral
8 risks and alcoholic energy drinks are available to anyone
9 without regard to the age of the individual; and

10 WHEREAS, It is important that the public, particularly
11 students and young adults, are made aware of the potentially
12 harmful effects of high caffeine energy drinks, especially when
13 consumed with alcohol and medication; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
15 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to study the risks of
16 consuming alcoholic energy drinks and consuming high caffeine
17 energy drinks together with alcohol; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That, if the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
19 conducts the study, it should do all of the following:

20 (1) Determine the extent to which alcoholic energy
21 drinks and high caffeine energy drinks are consumed by
22 students and young adults and whether the drinks are consumed
23 with alcohol or medication.

24 (2) Ascertain whether certain injuries, violence and
25 other risky behaviors have been linked to the consumption of
26 these products by students and young adults in this
27 Commonwealth.

28 (3) Determine whether the consumption of these drinks
29 together with alcohol and medication is a problem in this
30 Commonwealth.

1 (4) Evaluate the feasibility of limiting access of
2 alcoholic energy drinks to underage drinkers.

3 (5) Recommend ways to inform the public concerning the
4 health and behavior risks of consuming high caffeine energy
5 drinks with alcohol and medication.

6 (6) Consider other related matters as deemed
7 appropriate;

8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
10 departments and agencies of the Commonwealth to provide
11 assistance to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for this
12 study; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, if the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
14 conducts the study, it should report its findings to the House
15 of Representatives as soon as possible after concluding the
16 study.