

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 202 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY WHITE, D. COSTA, MANN, M. O'BRIEN, CUTLER AND
HENNESSEY, APRIL 11, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 11, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 investigate the potential cost savings and other benefits, as
3 well as challenges, to school districts of implementing a
4 four-day school week schedule.

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that volatile fuel
6 and energy costs have the potential to devastate public school
7 district budgets; and

8 WHEREAS, The traditional five-day school week schedule for
9 students may not be the most efficient and effective plan for
10 optimizing the use of limited school district resources and
11 saving taxpayer dollars or for providing the highest quality
12 education for students; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to higher energy and other costs, school
14 districts in this Commonwealth and across the nation are
15 increasingly considering the option of a four-day school week
16 schedule primarily as an innovative potential cost-saving
17 initiative; and

18 WHEREAS, When four-day school weeks for public school
19 districts have been successfully utilized, savings have resulted

1 in the costs for heating, electricity and fuel, which can save
2 taxpayers thousands of dollars; and

3 WHEREAS, It is in the best interests of this Commonwealth's
4 school districts for the General Assembly to study the four-day
5 school week option in order to better understand its potential
6 to produce cost savings, as well as to identify any other
7 benefits and challenges that such option may provide for
8 students, teachers, parents, administrators, staff and the local
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's school board members, administrators,
11 teachers and State education leaders are committed to improving
12 educational outcomes for this Commonwealth's students and are
13 continually seeking innovative ways to provide students with the
14 best possible structure and environment that is most conducive
15 for learning so that students can compete in the 21st century
16 global economy; and

17 WHEREAS, Further investigation of the four-day school week
18 option by the General Assembly will serve to identify various
19 possible advantages and disadvantages that may exist, which
20 could serve as additional incentive for school districts to
21 implement this option; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
23 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the history of
24 four-day school week schedules that are currently in operation
25 or have been attempted by school districts in other states and
26 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
28 investigate the potential cost savings for school districts of
29 implementing a four-day school week schedule, including, but not
30 limited to, areas of specific savings relating to public

1 utilities, transportation, food service, teacher and staff
2 salaries, labor contracts, retirement and pension plans and
3 relevant legal considerations; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
5 identify any educational or other benefits or disadvantages that
6 have been discovered as a result of implementing a four-day
7 school week, including those for students, teachers, parents,
8 administrators, staff and the local community, relating to, but
9 not limited to, academic performance, productivity, absenteeism,
10 morale, instruction time, child care, extracurricular
11 activities, at-risk students and program expansion; and be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
14 examine what types of schools would be more likely to benefit
15 from the implementation of a four-day school week schedule,
16 including urban, suburban or rural school districts; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
19 examine the advantages and disadvantages of implementing a four-
20 day school week schedule on a full-time basis versus a limited-
21 time basis; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
23 prepare a report of its findings and transmit copies of the
24 report to the Education Committee of the House of
25 Representatives and to the full House of Representatives within
26 one year of the adoption of this resolution.