

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 267 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, SABATINA, TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF, FARNESE, COSTA, FONTANA, BREWSTER, RESCHENTHALER, STEFANO, DINNIMAN, BARTOLOTTA, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK, BAKER, YAW, LEACH, BROOKS, WHITE, EICHELBERGER, McGARRIGLE, WILEY, AUMENT, GORDNER, MENSCH, HAYWOOD, WAGNER, HUGHES AND WARD, JANUARY 28, 2016

SENATOR VANCE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, AS AMENDED, MARCH 16, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to study issues relating to the need for,
3 availability of and access to effective drug addiction
4 treatment in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, Abuse and illegal use of drugs directly affects
6 thousands of residents of this Commonwealth every day, placing
7 severe financial, emotional and other strains on families,
8 businesses and communities; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 925,000 residents of this Commonwealth are
10 estimated to have drug or alcohol disorders; and

11 WHEREAS, National studies project that one in four people
12 with a substance addiction will die as a result of the
13 addiction; and

14 WHEREAS, The cost of addiction is estimated to be more than
15 \$700 billion a year nationally from the related crime, lost work
16 productivity and health care; and

1 WHEREAS, Decreased funding of inpatient treatment has made
2 programs longer than 28 days increasingly rare despite research
3 showing longer care is commonly required for addiction such as
4 heroin and opioids; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 2,400 people in this Commonwealth died
6 from drug overdoses in 2014, more than twice the number of
7 deaths by automobile accidents and more than four times the
8 number of murders from all means; and

9 WHEREAS, Studies indicate that as many as 80% of criminal
10 offenders nationally have substance abuse issues; and

11 WHEREAS, Every dollar spent on treatment is estimated to
12 result in up to \$11 in savings to the public and in medical
13 costs; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a reported shortfall of more than 70,000
15 treatment spaces in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Only about one out of every eight residents of this
17 Commonwealth who are in need of addiction treatment is able to
18 access it; and

19 WHEREAS, Access, infrastructure and funding affect the
20 ability of a system to provide needed treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, A variety of procedures and formats are used to
22 treat addiction, including medication-assisted treatment and
23 cognitive behavioral therapy; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
25 Commission to establish an advisory committee suitable to the
26 goals and purposes of this resolution; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee include representatives
28 of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, Department of
29 Corrections, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department
30 of Education, Department of Health, Department of Human

1 Services, Insurance Department, Administrative Office of
2 Pennsylvania Courts, Juvenile Court Judges' Commission, private
3 organizations that represent general medical hospitals in this
4 Commonwealth, ~~addiction treatment programs in this Commonwealth~~ <--
5 ~~and~~ insurers who market health care policies in this
6 Commonwealth, addiction treatment organizations and programs,
7 including medical specialists in addiction treatment, recovering
8 addicts and family members of addicts, the Pennsylvania
9 Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators, the
10 Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association, the Pennsylvania
11 Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pennsylvania Coalition
12 Against Rape, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association
13 and others whose expertise or experience would facilitate the
14 work of the Joint State Government Commission and advisory
15 committee; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
17 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and
18 comprehensive study of issues relating to the need for,
19 availability of and access to effective drug addiction treatment
20 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the study review all of the following:

22 (1) Locations and types of treatment programs, including
23 length of inpatient programs and outpatient follow-up.

24 (2) The need for additional treatment resources,
25 including additional public funding.

26 (3) The opportunity for residents of this Commonwealth
27 to access effective treatment.

28 (4) The prevalence and practical impact of using private
29 or public funding for treatment.

30 (5) The identification of particular forms of treatment

1 and whether it is possible to compare the effectiveness of
2 particular forms of treatment.

3 (6) How to assist consumers in locating and determining
4 the effectiveness and value of different types of treatment
5 and programs.

6 (7) How to encourage and foster emerging, promising
7 forms of treatment and best practices in this Commonwealth.

8 (8) Any other relevant issues the Joint State Government
9 Commission and advisory committee identify as helpful to
10 improving the availability of effective treatment in this
11 Commonwealth;

12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
14 include a process providing for reasonable public comment and
15 input on issues of treatment access, availability and
16 effectiveness; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations
18 for changes to statutes, practices, policies, programs and
19 procedures relating to drug addiction treatment; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
22 report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations not
23 later than 18 months from the adoption of this resolution.