
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. **294** Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, FOLMER, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, BROWNE,
MENSCH, VOGEL, WARD, WAGNER AND VULAKOVICH, MARCH 22, 2016

REFERRED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, MARCH 22, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study examining the use of evidence-based decision making by
3 the Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Evidence-based decision making utilizes the best
5 available research and data on programs to guide public
6 officials in determining whether to expand, eliminate or
7 modify certain government programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Evidence-based decision making has been used by the
9 Federal Government, state governments and private sector
10 companies; and

11 WHEREAS, Evidence-based decision making will allow State
12 agencies to have a better understanding of whether certain State
13 programs are an effective use of taxpayer dollars; therefore be
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
16 Commission to conduct a study examining the use of evidence-
17 based decision making by the Commonwealth; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study include an examination of all of the

1 following:

2 (1) The use of evidence-based decision making by other
3 state governments.

4 (2) A comprehensive review and analysis of the continuum
5 of evidentiary standards used for evidence-based evaluations.

6 (3) A comprehensive review and analysis of the existing
7 evidence-based program registries currently available, the
8 standards of evidence used by each and an assessment of the
9 strengths and limitations of each, including, but not limited
10 to, the following:

11 (i) Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development.

12 (ii) The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency
13 Prevention Model Programs Guide.

14 (iii) The United States Department of Justice's
15 website www.crimesolutions.gov.

16 (iv) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
17 Administration National Registry of Evidence-Based
18 Programs and Practices.

19 (v) The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for
20 Child Welfare.

21 (vi) The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy.

22 (vii) The Promising Practices Network.

23 (viii) The What Works Clearinghouse.

24 (4) The potential methods that the Commonwealth can use
25 to implement evidence-based decision making, including a
26 determination of which State agencies and programs are best
27 suited to implement evidence-based decision making.

28 (5) The amount and types of data collected by State
29 agencies and the extent to which the data is shared among
30 State agencies.

1 (6) The current methods of data protection employed by
2 State agencies and the most effective methods to protect the
3 privacy rights of the residents of this Commonwealth who
4 provide personal data to State agencies;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
7 report on the study to the Senate within 18 months of the
8 adoption of this resolution.