

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1081 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BRADFORD, OCTOBER 22, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 22, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Public School Employees' Retirement System and the
2 State Employees' Retirement System to create and implement
3 socially responsible investing policies.

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's pension systems have significant
5 financial assets in markets and investments around the world;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a history of creating investment
8 policies that consider all merits of an investment, including
9 prohibiting investments in nations such as Iran and Sudan; and

10 WHEREAS, Evidence exists that investment products which
11 account for environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors
12 provide superior long-term returns; and

13 WHEREAS, ESG factors can have a material impact on the value
14 of companies, securities and other investments; and

15 WHEREAS, Many pension funds and institutional investors have
16 adopted ESG policies as a component of their investment
17 selection process; and

18 WHEREAS, The beneficiaries of the Public School Employees'
19 Retirement System and the State Employees' Retirement System

1 would be well served to have ESG factors considered for
2 investments by the pension systems; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Public
4 School Employees' Retirement System and the State Employees'
5 Retirement System to create and implement socially responsible
6 investing policies; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That these policies should take into account ESG
8 factors and how they relate to the risks and returns of various
9 investments; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That ESG factors should be considered, but not
11 supersede, the responsibility of Pennsylvania's pension systems
12 to make financially prudent investments.