
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 12 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, SCHWANK, SANTARSIERO, L. WILLIAMS,
FONTANA, COMITTA, HAYWOOD, COLLETT, BARTOLOTTA, COSTA,
KEARNEY, TARTAGLIONE, DILLON AND BREWSTER, JANUARY 19, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 19, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on the impact of sexual harassment, sexual assault,
3 dating violence, domestic violence and stalking on
4 Commonwealth students enrolled in grades six through twelve
5 and postsecondary institutions and issue a report of its
6 findings and recommendations to the Governor and General
7 Assembly.

8 WHEREAS, One in five women and one in twenty men experience
9 sexual violence during their time in college; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice has found
11 that nearly 20% of girls between 14 and 17 years of age
12 experience sexual assault; and

13 WHEREAS, Research suggests that younger students, lesbian,
14 gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students,
15 students of color and students with disabilities experience
16 higher rates of sexual violence and relationship violence than
17 their peers; and

18 WHEREAS, One in three adolescents experience violent and
19 abusive dating behaviors, including physical, sexual, emotional,
20 technological or verbal abuse; and

1 WHEREAS, The trauma of sexual violence has significant
2 negative impacts on students, including immediate and long-term
3 health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance
4 abuse, anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation, as well as
5 difficulties with school work or grades and problems with
6 friends, roommates, other students or family members; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated 61,141 girls between 14 and
8 17 years of age in this Commonwealth experience sexual assault,
9 resulting in an estimated \$14.8 billion in lifetime costs
10 resulting from decreased educational attainment and
11 productivity; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's school districts and postsecondary
13 institutions must ensure that all learners have access to high-
14 quality education in environments that are free from
15 discrimination, harassment and violence; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
17 Commission to conduct a study on the impact of sexual
18 harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence
19 and stalking on Commonwealth students enrolled in grades six
20 through twelve and postsecondary institutions and issue a report
21 of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General
22 Assembly; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission seek
24 input and information as appropriate from at least the
25 following:

- 26 (1) the Department of Education;
- 27 (2) the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
28 Delinquency;
- 29 (3) the Department of Human Services;
- 30 (4) the Department of Health;

- 1 (5) students representing each of the following:
- 2 (i) grades six through eight, including private and
3 public institutions, charter schools and cyber schools;
- 4 (ii) grades nine through twelve, including private
5 and public institutions, charter schools and cyber
6 schools; and
- 7 (iii) institutions of higher education;
- 8 (6) teachers and staff members from private and public
9 institutions, charter schools and cyber schools;
- 10 (7) school administrators, including superintendents,
11 serving in rural, urban and suburban school districts;
- 12 (8) faculty and staff members from institutions of
13 higher education;
- 14 (9) presidents of institutions of higher education,
15 including public and private two-year and four-year
16 institutions;
- 17 (10) deans of students or equivalent positions within
18 institutions of higher education, including public and
19 private two-year and four-year institutions;
- 20 (11) Title IX coordinators serving in rural, urban and
21 suburban school districts, as well as in institutions of
22 higher education, including public and private two-year and
23 four-year institutions;
- 24 (12) campus law enforcement or security personnel
25 serving at institutions of higher education, including public
26 and private two-year and four-year institutions;
- 27 (13) a police chief of a municipality containing an
28 institution of higher education, including public and private
29 two-year and four-year institutions;
- 30 (14) a representative of the judiciary with experience

1 in matters affecting young adults;

2 (15) a representative of a hospital or health care
3 provider;

4 (16) a medical professional from a campus health care
5 center of an institution of higher education;

6 (17) a representative of an organization providing
7 services to victims of relationship violence or sexual
8 assault;

9 (18) a psychiatrist or licensed clinical social worker
10 licensed and practicing in this Commonwealth with
11 demonstrated expertise in treatment of victims of
12 relationship violence or sexual assault; and

13 (19) a representative of an organization representing
14 the interests of LGBTQ youths in this Commonwealth;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
17 surveys and other information requests to institutions of higher
18 education and school districts to assist in its study and
19 recommendations; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government
21 Commission include findings and recommendations regarding
22 improving responses and establishing consistent responses to
23 sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic
24 violence and stalking at secondary and postsecondary
25 institutions, and that the report:

26 (1) compare and analyze responses to sexual harassment,
27 sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and
28 stalking in different educational settings, including public
29 and private secondary and postsecondary institutions;

30 (2) identify and review prevention and response policies

1 for both secondary and postsecondary institutions aimed at
2 reducing sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence,
3 domestic violence and stalking;

4 (3) identify and analyze the number, frequency and
5 benefits or deficiencies of postsecondary institutions,
6 campus climate surveys, including how the surveys are
7 conducted and how the surveys are used to construct the
8 postsecondary institutions' policies, programs and procedures
9 relating to sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating
10 violence, domestic violence and stalking; and

11 (4) include other data determined to be necessary or
12 appropriate;

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
15 its report to the Governor and General Assembly within one year
16 of the adoption of this resolution.