

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 509 Session of
2000

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, RYAN, BARRAR, WALKO, CURRY, BEBKO-JONES,
M. COHEN, EVANS, GEIST, GRUCELA, JAMES, HORSEY, MUNDY, MYERS,
PIPPY, RAMOS, ROSS, SHANER, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE,
WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD AND WATERS, MAY 16, 2000

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 16, 2000

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Education Committee to study alternative education
2 programs and examine Glen Mills Schools as a model of success
3 for adjudicated delinquents.

4 WHEREAS, Our nation is faced with ever-increasing costs as
5 our residential facilities for juvenile delinquents are failing;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Glen Mills Schools in this Commonwealth is the
8 nation's most thoroughly documented program based upon a
9 sociological model; and

10 WHEREAS, Glen Mills was founded in 1826 and is the nation's
11 oldest residential school for court-adjudicated juvenile males;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Glen Mills is located 20 miles outside of
14 Philadelphia on a 756-acre campus; and

15 WHEREAS, Glen Mills accepts adjudicated young men 15 to 18
16 years of age from all states without regard to regional
17 boundaries; and

1 WHEREAS, Glen Mills' philosophy is based upon two basic
2 principles:

3 (1) Students have great personal endowment and unlimited
4 potential to learn and grow.

5 (2) Students are not "bad boys."

6 This philosophy does not diminish accountability but puts
7 behavior in its environmental context; and

8 WHEREAS, The Glen Mills Schools program accepts two basic
9 mandates for students:

10 (1) To change behavior from antisocial to prosocial.

11 (2) To develop life skills that will help sustain this
12 change;

13 and

14 WHEREAS, A typical student at Glen Mills would be a group-
15 oriented, socialized delinquent without severe psychological and
16 emotional problems; and

17 WHEREAS, Admission decisions are made on a case-by-case basis
18 by the assigned area admission coordinator within 48 hours of
19 referral; and

20 WHEREAS, Students at Glen Mills are assigned to clean living
21 facilities and are assigned an individual counselor and a big
22 brother immediately upon admission; and

23 WHEREAS, Glen Mills has a health center, dental center and
24 on-grounds optical lab for students; and

25 WHEREAS, Each student at Glen Mills receives educational
26 instruction designed to meet academic needs; and

27 WHEREAS, Glen Mills has five academic levels for students and
28 offers a general educational development (GED) program for
29 students which has consistently exceeded the State and national
30 passing rates for the general public and institutions; and

1 WHEREAS, The College Preparatory program provides curricula
2 to insure continued academic success upon reentry to high school
3 or graduation and subsequent placement into institutions of
4 higher learning; and

5 WHEREAS, Additional educational services include a library,
6 computer and science labs, weekend and evening tutorial classes
7 and closed-circuit television programming; and

8 WHEREAS, Glen Mills is a member of the Pennsylvania
9 Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and the Delaware
10 Valley Athletic Association; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
12 Education Committee to conduct a study of alternative education
13 programs and examine the Glen Mills Schools for use as a model
14 of success for adjudicated juveniles; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Education Committee report its findings
16 and recommendations to the House of Representatives as soon as
17 possible.