
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 742 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY STERN, ARGALL, FLECK, ROCK, VULAKOVICH, CAPPELLI, BAKER, READSHAW, HERSHEY, GALLOWAY, PICKETT, FAIRCHILD, CALTAGIRONE, MICOZZIE, WALKO, PHILLIPS, SHIMKUS, HARRIS, SONNEY, REICHLEY, GRUCELA, RUBLEY, HARHAI, M. KELLER, J. TAYLOR, J. WHITE, SAYLOR, DENLINGER, PETRONE, MAHONEY, TRUE, MCGEEHAN, SCAVELLO, MURT, KULA, HARHART, CLYMER, MOUL, HESS, BEYER, R. MILLER, ROHRER, WATSON, BOYD, SWANGER AND BASTIAN, MAY 7, 2008

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MAY 7, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Health to conduct a geographic study
2 determining the accessibility and need for drug and alcohol
3 treatment facilities throughout the counties of this
4 Commonwealth and urging a moratorium on the issuance of new
5 licenses for drug or alcohol treatment facilities until the
6 completion of the study.

7 WHEREAS, It is the duty of the House of Representatives to
8 enhance the health and welfare of this Commonwealth's citizens
9 by the orderly and economical distribution of drug and alcohol
10 treatment resources to prevent needless duplication of services
11 and to make the delivery system responsive and adequate to the
12 needs of its citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Health should foster a sound drug
14 and alcohol services system which provides quality care at
15 appropriate treatment facilities throughout this Commonwealth,
16 evaluates potential providers on quality of care issues and
17 monitors the demand for, supply of and use of services to ensure

1 that treatment needs are met and unnecessary duplication is
2 avoided by regulatory authority; and

3 WHEREAS, Drug and alcohol health care facilities should
4 obtain approval from the Department of Health prior to
5 establishing or expanding services in order to ensure
6 accessibility to care and quality treatment for all Commonwealth
7 residents; and

8 WHEREAS, There are nearly 700 nonprofit and for-profit drug
9 and alcohol facilities across this Commonwealth, including 37
10 methadone clinics which provide treatment services to the
11 public; and

12 WHEREAS, There is one drug and alcohol treatment facility per
13 18,000 constituents, including one methadone clinic per 336,000
14 individuals of this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, The actual locations and numbers of drug and alcohol
16 treatment facilities in each county vary drastically from
17 Statewide ratios, signifying that there is limited accessibility
18 for treatment in some counties, while there is a proliferation
19 of for-profit facilities in other counties; and

20 WHEREAS, Blair, Centre, Elk, Franklin, Lebanon, Lycoming,
21 Snyder, Somerset and Venango Counties are experiencing a
22 proliferation of for-profit drug and alcohol treatment
23 facilities with half or more than half of the treatment
24 facilities operating under profit ownership; and

25 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth should strive to provide
26 accessibility and quality care to its own residents; and

27 WHEREAS, Counties such as Blair, Cameron, Erie, Forest,
28 McKean, Mercer, Sullivan and Tioga are home to a high number of
29 treatment facilities in relation to their county population,
30 indicating that a large number of those receiving care are not

1 county residents; and

2 WHEREAS, Adams, Carbon, Clarion, Clinton, Delaware, Indiana,
3 Lackawanna, Northampton, Perry, Pike and Somerset Counties are
4 experiencing a significant lack of accessible care for drug and
5 alcohol treatment services; and

6 WHEREAS, All these counties contain more than 10,000 citizens
7 over the Statewide and county averages of persons per treatment
8 facility; and

9 WHEREAS, To promote geographical and economical access to
10 care with an equitable distribution of drug and alcohol
11 treatment resources and to deter focusing development in areas
12 with the greatest profit opportunities and not in areas of the
13 greatest need, the General Assembly must devote sufficient
14 resources and information systems to examine the supply,
15 capacity, cost and quality of drug and alcohol services
16 throughout this Commonwealth; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
18 Department of Health to conduct a geographic study determining
19 the accessibility and need for drug and alcohol treatment
20 facilities throughout the counties of this Commonwealth; and be
21 it further

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
23 Department of Health to place a moratorium on the issuance of
24 any new licenses for drug or alcohol treatment facilities during
25 this study; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Department of Health report to the House
27 of Representatives no later than six months after the adoption
28 of this resolution on its activities, findings and
29 recommendations for any needed changes in law to make the
30 availability and accessibility of this type of care as uniform

1 as possible across the diversity of this Commonwealth.