

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 243 Session of  
2008

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, O'PAKE, D. WHITE, BOSCOLA, COSTA, FERLO,  
FONTANA, KITCHEN, LAVALLE, MELLOW, RHOADES, TOMLINSON,  
WASHINGTON, C. WILLIAMS AND EARLL, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study to examine state law and school policies and practices  
3 regarding the notification of parents when a student violates  
4 a public or private institution of higher education's drug  
5 and alcohol policy.

6 WHEREAS, Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction have  
7 devastating health and social consequences that adversely affect  
8 this Commonwealth and the nation; and

9 WHEREAS, Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are recognized  
10 as two of the most serious problems confronting this  
11 Commonwealth and the nation; and

12 WHEREAS, In many of the occurrences of drug and alcohol abuse  
13 by a student, family members are unaware of the substance abuse;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Timely notification of parents of students at public  
16 and private institutions of higher education would inform the  
17 parents regarding the student's potential drug and alcohol  
18 problems and enable parents to respond to situations where such  
19 information is necessary to protect the health and safety of the

1 student or other individuals; and

2 WHEREAS, Any notification of parents of students by such  
3 institutions of higher education with personal information  
4 regarding a university or college student must comply with  
5 Federal, State and local laws regarding the privacy of student  
6 information; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
8 Commission to conduct a study to examine the laws of each state  
9 of the United States and the policies and practices of a  
10 representative sample of public and private institutions of  
11 higher education located in the United States, including this  
12 Commonwealth, regarding the notification of parents of students  
13 for the purposes set forth in this resolution; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission include  
15 in its study such determinations, whether and to what extent  
16 states through statute or regulation require institutions to  
17 provide parents notification of a violation of the institution's  
18 drug or alcohol policy by the student or to provide parents  
19 personal information from the student's records without the  
20 student's consent when the information is necessary to protect  
21 the health and safety of the student or other individuals; and  
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission include  
24 in its study whether the institutions included in the  
25 representative sample have adopted or enacted a policy or  
26 practice for providing parents notification of a violation of  
27 the institution's drug and alcohol policy by the student; and be  
28 it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission include  
30 in its study whether and to what extent institutions included in

1 the representative sample have a policy or practice for the  
2 disclosure of personal information from a student's educational  
3 records without the student's consent to the student's parents,  
4 who are deemed appropriate persons by the institution, where  
5 such information is necessary to protect the health and safety  
6 of the student or other individuals; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission include  
8 in its study a summary of the reasons or rationales provided by  
9 institutions in the representative sample for either having  
10 established a policy or practice for parental notification for a  
11 drug and alcohol policy violation by a student or for the  
12 disclosure of student personal information without consent to  
13 protect the health and safety of the student or other  
14 individuals or for not having such a policy or practice; and be  
15 it further

16       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission compile  
17 a report to summarize the determinations reached in the study  
18 and submit the report to the Senate no later than December 1,  
19 2008, or six months after enactment of this resolution,  
20 whichever is later.