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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 619 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY GRELL, KOTIK, MILLARD, WATSON, MURT, GINGRICH,  
COHEN, MILNE AND PEIFER, JANUARY 24, 2014

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 24, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study on the costs and services of the county adult  
3 probation system.

4 WHEREAS, County adult probation departments fill a critical  
5 need in this Commonwealth's criminal justice system; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and  
7 Parole's annual statistical report released in 2012, offenders  
8 supervised by county adult probation departments represented 86%  
9 of the total offenders on supervision, while 13% were supervised  
10 by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole; and

11 WHEREAS, The number of offenders supervised by county adult  
12 probation and parole departments totaled 241,723, according to  
13 the report released by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and  
14 Parole in 2012; and

15 WHEREAS, The number of adult offenders supervised by county  
16 probation and parole departments increased by 4,549 offenders or  
17 1.9% between December 2011 and December 2012, according to the  
18 report released by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and

1 Parole in 2012; and

2 WHEREAS, The number of county probation officers supervising  
3 a caseload increased by 34 adult probation officers between  
4 December 2011 and December 2012, according to the report  
5 released by the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole in  
6 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, The average caseload is 148 offenders per county  
8 adult probation officer, according to the 2012 statistical  
9 report of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole; and

10 WHEREAS, The General Assembly enacted legislation in 1965 to  
11 provide a grant-in-aid program in order to support county adult  
12 probation and parole departments; and

13 WHEREAS, Grant-in-aid has been provided to the 65 counties  
14 with adult probation and parole departments since fiscal year  
15 1966-1967; and

16 WHEREAS, The objectives of the grant-in-aid program are to  
17 maintain, improve and expand county adult probation and parole  
18 personnel and program services, provide protection to the public  
19 through effective community correctional services and provide  
20 training to county adult probation and parole personnel; and

21 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives last received a report  
22 from the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee entitled "A  
23 Study of Costs and Services in Pennsylvania's County Adult  
24 Probation System" in 2000 through the adoption of House  
25 Resolution 251; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
27 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the county  
28 adult probation system, specifically the grant-in-aid formula,  
29 county costs and supervision fees to determine the impact on the  
30 quality and level of program services offered through the county

1 adult probation system; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
3 report its findings to the House of Representatives by November  
4 30, 2014.