THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 659 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE, MACKENZIE, DIGIROLAMO, BOBACK, V. BROWN, SCHLOSSBERG, MASSER, MILLARD, CORBIN, GROVE, MILNE, TOEPEL, MENTZER, PICKETT, MURT, THOMAS, BENNINGHOFF, GRELL, GIBBONS, MARSICO, LAWRENCE, HACKETT AND GINGRICH, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 18, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 2 3	Establishing the task force on opiate OPIOID prescription drug proliferation and its impact on heroin use in this Commonwealth; and creating an advisory committee.	<
4	WHEREAS, The United States makes up 4.5% of the world's	
5	population; and	
6	WHEREAS, The United States consumes 80% of the opiate OPIOID	<
7	prescription drugs; and	
8	WHEREAS, The human suffering associated with addiction for	
9	affected families has now reached epidemic proportions; and	
10	WHEREAS, Criminal court dockets are crowded with people who	
11	are living with an addiction to prescription drugs; and	
12	WHEREAS, The death toll is surging from opiate OPIOID	<
13	prescription drug overdoses; and	
14	WHEREAS, Those who become addicted to prescription drugs,	
15	left untreated, tend to shift to abusing heroin, and this has	
16	resulted in a huge increase in heroin use across this	

- 1 Commonwealth; and
- 2 WHEREAS, The proliferation of opiate OPIOID prescription drug <--
- 3 abuse has become a crisis; therefore be it
- 4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
- 5 State Government Commission to establish a task force on opiate <--
- 6 OPIOID prescription drug proliferation; and be it further <--
- 7 RESOLVED, That the task force consist of four members
- 8 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two
- 9 appointed in consultation with the Majority Leader and two
- 10 appointed in consultation with the Minority Leader; and be it
- 11 further
- 12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission create
- 13 an advisory committee, including, but not limited to, the
- 14 following individuals:
- 15 (1) A representative recommended by the Department of
- 16 Drug and Alcohol Programs.
- 17 (2) A representative recommended by the Department of
- 18 Public Welfare.
- 19 (3) A representative recommended by the Insurance
- 20 Department.
- 21 (4) A physician recommended by the Department of Health.
- 22 (5) A representative recommended by the State Board of
- 23 Pharmacy.
- 24 (6) A representative recommended by the Attorney
- 25 General.
- 26 (7) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
- 27 Fraternal Order of Police.
- 28 (8) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
- 29 Athletic Oversight Committee.
- 30 (9) Two physicians recommended by the Pennsylvania

- 1 Medical Society, one of whom holds membership in the American
- 2 Society of Addiction Medicine and the other who is a
- 3 physician with expertise in chronic pain management and
- 4 treatment.
- 5 (10) A physician who is a member of the Pennsylvania
- 6 Psychiatric Society specializing in addiction psychiatry.
- 7 (11) A representative recommended by the Drug and
- 8 Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania.
- 9 (12) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
- 10 Recovery Organizations Alliance.
- 11 (13) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA
- 12 ASSOCIATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF OPIOID DEPENDENCE.
- 13 $\frac{(13)}{(14)}$ (14) A representative recommended by a manufacturer <--
- of opioid drugs.
- 15 (15) A WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED <--
- BY THE HEALTHCARE DISTRIBUTION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION.
- 17 $\frac{(14)}{(16)}$ (16) A representative recommended by the <--
- 18 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association.
- 19 (17) THE COMMISSIONER OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE OR <--

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- HIS DESIGNEE.
- 21 (18) A representative recommended by the
- 22 Pennsylvania Coroners Association.
- 23 (16) (19) A representative of chronic pain patients
- recommended by a physician with expertise in chronic pain
- 25 management.
- 26 (17) (20) A representative of pharmacists PHARMACIES
- 27 recommended by the Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug
- 28 Stores.
- 29 (18) (21) A representative of pharmacies PHARMACISTS
- 30 recommended by the Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

1 (22) A representative recommended by the

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- 2 Pennsylvania State Nurses Association ...
- 3 (23) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA
- 4 OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION;
- 5 and be it further
- 6 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee examine existing laws
- 7 relative to the prescribing and dispensing of prescription
- 8 opiate OPIOID drugs; and be it further
- 9 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee gather facts from
- 10 existing public hearings that have been held by legislative
- 11 committees; and be it further
- 12 RESOLVED, THAT THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACCEPT AND REVIEW ANY <--
- 13 BRIEFS OR COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY ANY STAKEHOLDERS; AND BE IT
- 14 FURTHER
- 15 RESOLVED, THAT PARENTS, SIBLINGS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE
- 16 LOST LOVED ONES ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT THEIR TESTIMONY FOR THE
- 17 RECORD; AND BE IT FURTHER
- 18 RESOLVED, That the task force and advisory committee make a
- 19 report to the General Assembly with suggested changes to current
- 20 State laws and regulations that will provide for safer and more
- 21 effective pain management practices, ensure that pain management
- 22 practitioners are sufficiently trained in identifying addiction
- 23 and referring addicted patients to appropriate care and help
- 24 combat the proliferation of misuse and abuse of opiate OPIOID
- 25 prescription drugs within one year of the adoption of this
- 26 resolution.