
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 590 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, HEFFLEY, THOMAS, READSHAW, DiGIROLAMO,
BULLOCK, KIRKLAND, ROTHMAN, R. BROWN, ROZZI, VEREB, McNEILL
AND D. COSTA, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, NOVEMBER 17, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to
2 establish and administer a task force on access to addiction
3 treatment through health plans and other resources.

4 WHEREAS, The human suffering associated with addiction for
5 affected families has reached epidemic proportions; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 2,500 Pennsylvanians lost their lives to
7 drug overdoses in 2013, with higher numbers expected in
8 subsequent years; and

9 WHEREAS, Drug-related deaths outnumber traffic fatalities in
10 16 states, including this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, Current court dockets are crowded with people with
12 addictions to prescription and other drugs; and

13 WHEREAS, Coverage for addiction treatment is already included
14 in the Affordable Care Act, the Federal Mental Health Parity and
15 Addiction Equity Act, health exchanges, Medicaid expansion and
16 State laws; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite this coverage, families urgently seeking
18 help for loved ones report difficulty accessing treatment

1 resources; and

2 WHEREAS, Funding for addiction treatment through single
3 county authorities for drugs and alcohol has been reduced and is
4 severely limited; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
6 Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to establish and convene
7 a task force to examine existing laws and identify methods and
8 procedures to assist consumers in accessing treatment; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That the task force led by the Department of Drug
11 and Alcohol Programs include representatives from the Department
12 of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Insurance
13 Department, licensed addiction treatment programs, parents and
14 loved ones or patient advocates who have specifically had
15 problems regarding benefits coverage; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the task force review compliance with all
17 relevant current laws, regulations, agreements and other legal
18 requirements and review tools that are available to evaluate,
19 monitor, report and audit or otherwise assist consumers in
20 accessing addiction treatment through current laws; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the task force gather facts from public
23 hearings and accept and review any briefs or comments submitted
24 by any stakeholder; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That parents, siblings, family members and others
26 who have lost loved ones are welcome to submit testimony for the
27 record; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
29 and its task force prepare a report for the General Assembly,
30 including, but not limited to, legislative and regulatory

1 remedies, as appropriate, to be completed one year after the
2 passage of this resolution.