

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1026 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TOOIL, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Education, the Pennsylvania
2 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Department of Human
3 Services and the Department of Corrections to collaborate and
4 conduct a study on the education being provided to children,
5 dependent children and youth 6 through 21 years of age in
6 juvenile and adult correctional facilities throughout this
7 Commonwealth.

8 WHEREAS, Youth in the juvenile justice system need a quality
9 education so that they can develop the skills they need to
10 become successful adults; and

11 WHEREAS, Research suggests that many young people enter the
12 juvenile justice system well behind grade level; and

13 WHEREAS, Studies demonstrate that system-involved youth are
14 chronically behind in school; and

15 WHEREAS, Nationally, as many as two-thirds of youth dropped
16 out of school after release from the system; and

17 WHEREAS, United States Department of Education data shows
18 that most youth in juvenile justice facilities made no
19 meaningful progress in learning or academic achievement; and

20 WHEREAS, There are serious questions about quality of
21 curricula used in juvenile and adult correctional facilities and

1 whether the curricula is aligned to Pennsylvania Core Standards;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Continuity of instruction is often compromised by
4 disruptions due to institutional activities and routines within
5 the correctional facility; and

6 WHEREAS, Placement in a juvenile justice facility is a
7 turning point for many youth and without appropriate programming
8 and coordination, too many youths fall behind while in custody;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 2012, the United States Department of Education
11 hosted a correctional education summit at which recommendations
12 were made for the Federal Government to address the quality of
13 education provided to children and youth in juvenile and adult
14 correctional facilities at the state level; and

15 WHEREAS, The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Public Law
16 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802) establishes broad goals related to
17 delinquent youth, including improving education services to
18 provide the opportunity to meet state academic standards,
19 improving youth transition from institutionalization to further
20 schooling or employment, preventing dropout of youth and
21 providing young people returning from correctional facilities or
22 institutions for neglected and delinquent children and youth
23 with reentry support; and

24 WHEREAS, Education services can take many different forms,
25 including alternative schools for disruptive youth or GED only
26 programs as there are no uniform provisions of education
27 services within placement facilities and programs through
28 intermediate units, private facilities and school districts; and

29 WHEREAS, The oversight and monitoring of programs varies
30 widely depending on type of facility and type of program;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
3 Department of Education, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
4 Delinquency, Department of Human Services and Department of
5 Corrections to collaborate and conduct a study on the education
6 being provided to delinquent or dependent children and youth, 6
7 through 21 years of age, in juvenile and adult correctional or
8 congregate care facilities throughout this Commonwealth and
9 issue a study on its findings; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the study address the quality of education
11 provided to delinquent or dependent children and youth,
12 specifically if the curricula in juvenile and adult correctional
13 or congregate care facilities is aligned to Pennsylvania's Core
14 Standards; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the study evaluate how the needs of children
16 and youth with an individualized education plan or qualified 504
17 plan are met while placed, if the child or youth is placed in
18 facilities that provide the necessary support to meet the pre-
19 placement identified educational needs and the role of the
20 original resident school district and educational guardians in
21 the individual education program or 504 plan monitoring or
22 development while the child or youth is place; and be if further

23 RESOLVED, That the study include an assessment on the support
24 and training provided to education professionals in juvenile and
25 adult correctional or congregate care facilities; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the study include how Pennsylvania will comply
28 with or seek opportunities to exceed Federal standards for
29 incarcerated youth established by ESSA; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Department of Education, Pennsylvania

1 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Department of Human
2 Services and Department of Corrections review the
3 recommendations of the United States Department of Education on
4 correctional and reentry education for young people and report
5 on how Pennsylvania performs in regard to the recommendations
6 established in that report; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Department of Education, Pennsylvania
8 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Department of Human
9 Services and Department of Corrections provide a report to the
10 Education Committee and the Judiciary Committee of the House of
11 Representatives no later than 18 months from the date of the
12 adoption of this resolution.