

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 294 Session of  
2015

---

INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, FOLMER, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, BROWNE,  
MENSCH, VOGEL, WARD, WAGNER AND VULAKOVICH, MARCH 22, 2016

---

REFERRED TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS, MARCH 22, 2016

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study examining the use of evidence-based decision making by  
3 the Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Evidence-based decision making utilizes the best  
5 available research and data on programs to guide public  
6 officials in determining whether to expand, eliminate or  
7 modify certain government programs; and

8 WHEREAS, Evidence-based decision making has been used by the  
9 Federal Government, state governments and private sector  
10 companies; and

11 WHEREAS, Evidence-based decision making will allow State  
12 agencies to have a better understanding of whether certain State  
13 programs are an effective use of taxpayer dollars; therefore be  
14 it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
16 Commission to conduct a study examining the use of evidence-  
17 based decision making by the Commonwealth; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study include an examination of all of the

1 following:

2 (1) The use of evidence-based decision making by other  
3 state governments.

4 (2) A comprehensive review and analysis of the continuum  
5 of evidentiary standards used for evidence-based evaluations.

6 (3) A comprehensive review and analysis of the existing  
7 evidence-based program registries currently available, the  
8 standards of evidence used by each and an assessment of the  
9 strengths and limitations of each, including, but not limited  
10 to, the following:

11 (i) Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development.

12 (ii) The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
13 Prevention Model Programs Guide.

14 (iii) The United States Department of Justice's  
15 website [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov).

16 (iv) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
17 Administration National Registry of Evidence-Based  
18 Programs and Practices.

19 (v) The California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for  
20 Child Welfare.

21 (vi) The Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy.

22 (vii) The Promising Practices Network.

23 (viii) The What Works Clearinghouse.

24 (4) The potential methods that the Commonwealth can use  
25 to implement evidence-based decision making, including a  
26 determination of which State agencies and programs are best  
27 suited to implement evidence-based decision making.

28 (5) The amount and types of data collected by State  
29 agencies and the extent to which the data is shared among  
30 State agencies.

1           (6) The current methods of data protection employed by  
2 State agencies and the most effective methods to protect the  
3 privacy rights of the residents of this Commonwealth who  
4 provide personal data to State agencies;

5 and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
7 report on the study to the Senate within 18 months of the  
8 adoption of this resolution.