

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 157 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, BARTOLOTTA, BROOKS, SCAVELLO, YAW,
EICHELBERGER, WHITE, VULAKOVICH, MARTIN AND BROWNE,
JUNE 28, 2017

REFERRED TO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 28, 2017

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a process to determine whether consolidation of the
2 Department of Aging, the Department of Drug and Alcohol
3 Programs, the Department of Health and the Department of
4 Human Services should occur, and directing the appointment of
5 an Efficiencies Director to lead an examination of the
6 options and develop an implementation plan should
7 consolidation of any or all of the four State agencies be
8 recommended.

9 WHEREAS, In February 2017, as part of his budget address,
10 Governor Tom Wolf proposed the consolidation of the Department
11 of Aging, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the
12 Department of Health and the Department of Human Services
13 (hereinafter referred to as "the departments") in an effort to
14 deliver public health, social and human services to residents of
15 this Commonwealth in the most efficient and effective way; and

16 WHEREAS, The goal of enhancing service delivery to improve
17 lives while reducing costs to taxpayers is always appealing and
18 worthy of consideration; and

19 WHEREAS, Any consolidation or structural changes considered
20 for implementation in the departments should seek to bolster

benefits and programs for seniors, children, the disabled and others in need, decrease confusion for recipients, reduce red tape for providers, and enhance our efforts to fight back against the heroin and opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, Joint hearings held by the appropriate oversight committees in the Senate and House of Representatives demonstrated a need for greater stakeholder input and revealed numerous issues, including concerns about diminished priority for smaller departments and questions about the actual budgetary savings that would be gained; and

WHEREAS, The decision to consolidate or not consolidate any or all of the departments or the administrative services or programs within the departments requires a deliberative process, which includes ample community input from stakeholders and others, and provides for necessary legislative oversight; and

WHEREAS, The creation of a process to study such consolidation and the appointment of an Efficiencies Director is necessary to eliminate or lessen any negative impact resulting from any potential consolidation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, (the House of Representative concurring), That the General Assembly direct that an Efficiencies Director, knowledgeable and experienced in the primary functions of the departments, be appointed to lead an examination of the various options and offer a report with recommendations on whether to consolidate any or all of the departments, or in lieu of consolidation, any other suggestions to streamline bureaucracy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Efficiencies Director be appointed by the Governor with the consent of a majority of the members of the Senate within 60 days of the effective date of this resolution,

1 or in the absence of an appointment, the Secretary of
2 Administration will serve as the Efficiencies Director by
3 default; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an Evaluation Committee be established as
5 follows:

6 (1) The committee shall consist of the following
7 members:

8 (i) The Efficiencies Director, who shall serve as
9 chairperson.

10 (ii) Five members appointed by each of the
11 following:

12 (A) The Majority Leader of the Senate.

13 (B) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

14 (C) The Majority Leader of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 (D) The Minority Leader of the House of
17 Representatives.

18 (2) In an effort to accurately represent providers and
19 consumers, the following apply:

20 (i) at least one member appointed by each of the
21 individuals under paragraph (1)(ii) shall receive
22 services from one of the departments under consideration,
23 or serve as an advocacy organization representing such
24 recipients; and

25 (ii) the remaining members appointed by each of the
26 individuals listed under paragraph (1)(ii) must be
27 contracted with or providing services on behalf of one of
28 the departments under consideration for consolidation, or
29 must be a member of an advocacy organization representing
30 the providers;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Evaluation Committee shall create any
3 number of subcommittees as it deems necessary and membership in
4 the subcommittees need not be limited to members of the
5 Evaluation Committee, but may include members or nonmembers
6 knowledgeable and experienced in the programmatic areas of the
7 departments being considered, or in consolidations, budgeting,
8 planning, or any other relevant field; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a Legislative Oversight Committee be
10 established, which shall consist of the following members or
11 their designees:

12 (1) The Secretary of Administration.

13 (2) The Secretary of the Budget.

14 (3) The secretaries of the departments.

15 (4) The Majority Leader of the Senate.

16 (5) The Minority Leader of the Senate.

17 (6) The majority chairpersons of each of the following
18 Senate Committees:

19 (i) Aging and Youth.

20 (ii) Appropriations.

21 (iii) Intergovernmental Operations.

22 (iv) Health and Human Services.

23 (7) The Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

24 (8) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

25 (9) The majority chairpersons of each of the following
26 committees of the House of Representatives:

27 (i) Aging and Older Adult Services.

28 (ii) Appropriations.

29 (iii) Children and Youth.

30 (iv) Health.

1 (v) Human Services.

2 (10) One member of the Senate and one member of the
3 House of Representatives, each selected by the Governor.

4 (11) The Efficiencies Director;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the departments provide administrative
7 services, meeting space and other necessary assistance to the
8 Efficiencies Director and the Evaluation Committee; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That members shall not receive compensation but
11 shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the service of the
12 committee through a separate appropriation under the Department
13 of Human Services in the amount of \$200,000; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Efficiencies Director, with support from
15 the Evaluation Committee and the Legislative Oversight
16 Committee, and in consultation with diverse stakeholder groups,
17 will gather input from various health and human services
18 populations in order to investigate whether any consolidation of
19 the departments, of administrative services, or of various
20 programs will generate cost savings, efficiencies and better
21 outcomes, and whether program disruption or other issues would
22 outweigh any benefits; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Evaluation Committee will make a final
24 recommendation on whether to consolidate any or all of the
25 departments, administrative services or various programs; and be
26 it further

27 RESOLVED, That should it be determined that no consolidation
28 should occur, the Evaluation Committee shall prepare a report
29 explaining the recommendation and offer specific suggestions on
30 how customer service improvements and cost savings might be

1 achieved outside of consolidation; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That should it be determined that any consolidation
3 should occur, the Evaluation Committee will make findings
4 regarding and create a consolidation plan that specifically
5 addresses:

6 (1) Impacts on consumers and program recipients.

7 (2) Impacts on counties and other service providers.

8 (3) Cost-benefit analysis detailing any cost savings to
9 be gained.

10 (4) Efficiencies to be made.

11 (5) Metrics to determine success.

12 (6) Accountability for carrying out the plan.

13 (7) Relevant time frames for any recommended action.

14 (8) Department-specific recommendations on inclusion or
15 noninclusion into other consolidated departments.

16 (9) Determination of critical programs and
17 recommendations of whether identified programs should be
18 included into other consolidated departments.

19 (10) Whether consolidation of administrative services
20 should be considered separately.

21 (11) Whether direct accountability of the Medicaid
22 Director to the General Assembly would improve services,
23 accountability, decision making and the appropriate
24 dissemination of information.

25 (12) Specific legislation to accomplish any proposals;
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the plan be presented to the Legislative
28 Oversight Committee by the Efficiencies Director within one year
29 of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Efficiencies Director may, at any time,

1 seek approval by the Legislative Oversight Committee, and
2 ultimately the General Assembly, of any component parts of a
3 plan or any other measures designed to affect efficiencies, cost
4 savings, service improvements or other benefits the Efficiencies
5 Director deems necessary or desirable, prior to the expiration
6 of the one-year period; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Oversight Committee shall
8 conduct no less than three public hearings, in diverse
9 geographic regions of this Commonwealth, and over no more than a
10 three-month period, to fully vet the plan or any component parts
11 of the plan; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Oversight Committee have the
13 authority to amend, approve or disapprove the plan or any
14 component parts of the plan brought to it; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Oversight Committee vote on
16 the plan, any component parts of the plan and any proposed
17 amendments to the plan or component parts thereof; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the plan, any component parts of the plan and
20 any amendments agreed to by the Legislative Oversight Committee
21 be presented to the General Assembly; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the secretaries of the departments or any
23 consolidated departments shall report on January 1 of each year
24 to the Evaluation Committee and the Legislative Oversight
25 Committee regarding progress on the plan or any component parts
26 approved by the General Assembly, including progress on meeting
27 performance goals or other metrics established with respect to
28 the plan or any component parts thereof; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Evaluation Committee and the Legislative
30 Oversight Committee shall meet at least annually to review

1 progress on the plan or any component parts approved by the
2 General Assembly, including progress on meeting performance
3 goals or other metrics established with respect to the plan or
4 any component parts thereof until the actions recommended by the
5 plan or component parts thereof are deemed complete by a
6 majority of the Evaluation and Legislative Oversight committees.