
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 175 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI, KINSEY,
READSHAW, NEILSON, FRANKEL, KIRKLAND AND McCLINTON,
MARCH 26, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 26, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the Statewide Automated Victim Information
3 and Notification program and related State programs
4 authorized by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
5 Delinquency to protect and support crime victims in this
6 Commonwealth.

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency
8 and the Office of Victim Advocate are charged with the
9 protection of Pennsylvania crime victims, including ensuring
10 their rights to a fair hearing and notice of offender release or
11 escape under the Crime Victims Act; and

12 WHEREAS, There is a civic and moral duty of victims of crime
13 to fully and voluntarily cooperate with law enforcement and
14 prosecutorial agencies; and

15 WHEREAS, Victim cooperation with State and local law
16 enforcement efforts continues to be an important component in
17 the investigative and judicial processes; and

18 WHEREAS, All victims of crime are to be treated with dignity,
19 respect, courtesy and sensitivity; and

1 WHEREAS, The Statewide Automated Victim Information and
2 Notification (SAVIN) program provided more than 2.8 million free
3 updates on perpetrators' custody status in the 2017-2018 fiscal
4 year; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania crime victims, including victims of
6 domestic violence and sexual abuse, should be afforded every
7 opportunity to continue to live peacefully following their
8 exposure to crime and should be offered timely notice of an
9 offender's release, escape or transfer from a correctional
10 facility; and

11 WHEREAS, The rights extended to victims of crime in the Crime
12 Victims Act are to be honored and protected by law enforcement
13 agencies, prosecutors and judges in a manner no less vigorous
14 than the protections afforded criminal defendants; and

15 WHEREAS, Victims, witnesses, advocates, policymakers, prison
16 administrators, wardens, law enforcement officials, prosecutors,
17 judges and business and industry representatives use the SAVIN
18 program and have a right to know about a proposed shift in its
19 operations; and

20 WHEREAS, Those individuals have a right to question whether
21 changes in the SAVIN program will continue to ensure timely and
22 seamless access to notification of offender release or transfer
23 and access to a call center staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a
24 year, with employees trained in victim sensitivity; and

25 WHEREAS, Those observers believe that an operational shift in
26 the SAVIN program merits an investigation to determine if
27 Pennsylvania is appropriately affording victims the crucial
28 services they are owed; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
30 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of

1 the Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification
2 program and related State programs authorized by the
3 Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to protect and
4 support crime victims in this Commonwealth; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the study include the following:

6 (1) an evaluation of the SAVIN program and its
7 administration by applicable agencies, offices and
8 organizations;

9 (2) an evaluation of any planned modifications to the
10 SAVIN program, including how the changes would alter the
11 program in comparison to other states' victim notification
12 systems;

13 (3) a solicitation of feedback and input from the Office
14 of Victim Advocate, members of the General Assembly, victims,
15 witnesses, county victim witness advocates, policymakers,
16 prison administrators, wardens, law enforcement officials,
17 prosecutors, judges and business and industry representatives
18 regarding proposed changes to the SAVIN program; and

19 (4) an analysis of comparable victims programs and
20 statutes in other states, including the administration and
21 funding of those programs;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
24 submit a report containing its findings and recommendations
25 regarding the study to the Governor and the House of
26 Representatives within six months of the adoption of this
27 resolution.