

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 268 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY STRUZZI, HOHENSTEIN, ULLMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, MERSKI,  
JOHNSON-HARRELL AND GILLEN, APRIL 29, 2019

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
AS AMENDED, MAY 14, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the  
2 impact of this Commonwealth's current behavioral health needs  
3 and behavioral health care system capacity on hospital  
4 emergency departments and patient health.

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is the fifth most populous state  
6 in the United States with diverse demographics and ever-changing  
7 health care needs; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 47.2% of adults receive behavioral  
9 health services and 41.9% of children receive behavioral health  
10 services; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth maintains a world-class health  
12 care system dedicated to removing barriers between behavioral  
13 health and physical health; and

14 WHEREAS, Patients experiencing behavioral health issues are  
15 not well-served during long stays in hospital emergency  
16 departments; and

17 WHEREAS, Hospital emergency departments are unable to find  
18 timely and appropriate placements for individuals in need of

1 behavioral health services; and

2 WHEREAS, Prolonged and unnecessary hospital stays can have a  
3 range of effects, including an increased dependency, a loss of a  
4 patient's confidence in the patient's ability to cope and an  
5 increased likelihood of long-term institutionalization;  
6 therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
8 State Government Commission to study the impact of this  
9 Commonwealth's current behavioral health care treatment needs  
10 and behavioral health care system capacity on this  
11 Commonwealth's hospital emergency departments; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
13 the impact of this Commonwealth's current behavioral health care  
14 treatment needs and behavioral health care system capacity on  
15 patient health; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
17 how current Federal and State laws and regulations impact the  
18 ability of this Commonwealth's health care system AND PROVIDERS <--  
19 to treat behavioral health and physical health issues; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
22 the prevalence of psychiatric boarding, which ~~is the holding of~~ <--  
23 ~~patients in hospital emergency departments for more than a 24-~~  
24 ~~hour period after a patient has been admitted but not physically-~~  
25 ~~transferred to an inpatient unit~~ ENCOMPASSES THE TIME PERIOD IN <--  
26 A HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AFTER MEDICAL STABILIZATION OF A  
27 PATIENT IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC CARE AND PRIOR TO THE ADMISSION  
28 OR TRANSFER OF THAT PATIENT TO AN INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BED; and  
29 be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study

1 this Commonwealth's current behavioral health care treatment  
2 needs to determine the impact of psychiatric boarding on this  
3 Commonwealth's behavioral health care system and patients; and  
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the study include recommendations to ensure  
6 that this Commonwealth's health care providers are able to  
7 adequately treat patients with co-occurring behavioral health  
8 and physical health issues; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission  
10 establish an advisory committee comprised of, but not limited  
11 to, all of the following individuals:

12 (1) A representative recommended by the Department of  
13 Drug and Alcohol Programs.

14 (2) A representative recommended by the Department of  
15 Human Services.

16 (3) A physician recommended by the Department of Health.

17 ~~(4) A representative of a rural hospital recommended by <--~~  
18 ~~the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.~~

19 ~~(5) A representative of an urban hospital recommended by~~  
20 ~~the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.~~

21 ~~(6) A representative of a suburban hospital recommended~~  
22 ~~by the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania.~~

23 ~~(7) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
24 ~~College of Emergency Physicians.~~

25 ~~(8) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
26 ~~Medical Society.~~

27 ~~(9) A physician who is a member of the Pennsylvania~~  
28 ~~Psychiatric Society.~~

29 ~~(10) A representative recommended by the Drug and~~  
30 ~~Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania.~~

1           ~~(11) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
2 ~~Recovery Organizations Alliance.~~

3           ~~(12) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
4 ~~organization for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.~~

5           ~~(13) A representative recommended by the Rehabilitation~~  
6 ~~and Community Providers Association.~~

7           ~~(14) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
8 ~~Psychiatric Leadership Council.~~

9           ~~(15) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
10 ~~State Nurses Association.~~

11           ~~(16) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania~~  
12 ~~Osteopathic Medical Association.~~

13           ~~(17) Any~~

14           (4) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF     <--  
15 HEALTH.

16           (5) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A RURAL HOSPITAL RECOMMENDED BY  
17 THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

18           (6) A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN URBAN HOSPITAL RECOMMENDED BY  
19 THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

20           (7) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A SUBURBAN HOSPITAL RECOMMENDED  
21 BY THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

22           (8) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
23 COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS.

24           (9) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
25 MEDICAL SOCIETY.

26           (10) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MANAGED  
27 CARE ORGANIZATION.

28           (11) A PHYSICIAN WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
29 PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY.

30           (12) A PHYSICIAN RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY

1 OF ADDICTION MEDICINE.

2 (13) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE DRUG AND  
3 ALCOHOL SERVICE PROVIDERS ORGANIZATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.

4 (14) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
5 RECOVERY ORGANIZATIONS ALLIANCE.

6 (15) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
7 ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS.

8 (16) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
9 ORGANIZATION FOR THE NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS.

10 (17) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
11 ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATORS OF MENTAL HEALTH AND  
12 DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.

13 (18) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE REHABILITATION  
14 AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION.

15 (19) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
16 PSYCHIATRIC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL.

17 (20) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
18 MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMERS' ASSOCIATION.

19 (21) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
20 STATE NURSES ASSOCIATION.

21 (22) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA  
22 OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

23 (23) ANY other representatives from other organizations  
24 that are deemed appropriate by the Joint State Government  
25 Commission;

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
28 report with its findings and recommendations WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF <--  
29 THE PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION to all of the following:

30 (1) The Health and Human Services Committee of the

1 Senate.

2 (2) The Health Committee of the House of  
3 Representatives.

4 (3) The Human Services Committee of the House of  
5 Representatives;

6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission solicit  
8 input from representatives of all aspects of the health care  
9 sector and continuum of care to assist the Joint State  
10 Government Commission with its findings and recommendations in  
11 the report.