
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 864 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY NELSON, MAY 12, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
MAY 12, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a select subcommittee on COVID-19 in long-term care
2 facilities to investigate, review and make recommendations
3 concerning the response to COVID-19 in long-term care
4 facilities in this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, As of May 4, 2020, the Department of Health has
6 reported that 66% of deaths in this Commonwealth related to the
7 novel coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19, have occurred in
8 long-term care facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Long-term care facilities include nursing
10 facilities, personal care homes, assisted living residences and
11 hospice care; and

12 WHEREAS, It should be a priority of the General Assembly to
13 examine and review the response to COVID-19 in all long-term
14 care facilities in this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, It is important that the Commonwealth help
16 facilitate a safe living environment for older adults in all
17 circumstances, especially in the event of an emergency;
18 therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee

1 of the House of Representatives be authorized and directed to
2 establish a select subcommittee on COVID-19 in long-term care
3 facilities; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the select subcommittee be authorized and
5 empowered to do the following:

6 (1) Investigate, review and make findings and
7 recommendations regarding:

8 (i) The reporting requirements imposed on long-term
9 care facilities by the departments which license the
10 long-term care facilities.

11 (ii) Whether the mitigation efforts implemented
12 pursuant to orders issued by the Governor or Secretary of
13 Health in the long-term care facilities were effective.

14 (iii) The impact of the suspension of regulations
15 and policies by the Department of Health and Department
16 of Human Services during the COVID-19 crisis.

17 (iv) The unique challenges residents of long-term
18 care facilities have faced during the COVID-19 crisis.

19 (v) The cause of the rapid spread of COVID-19 among
20 residents in long-term care facilities.

21 (vi) The contribution of COVID-19 to the cause of
22 deaths in long-term care facilities.

23 (vii) the Department of Health's response to
24 distributing personal protective equipment and other
25 crucial supplies to combat COVID-19.

26 (2) Review the best practices of other states and
27 methods for mitigating COVID-19 in long-term care facilities.

28 (3) Develop recommendations which:

29 (i) Are designed to protect residents and staff in
30 long-term care facilities.

1 (ii) Facilitate cost-effective use of Federal and
2 State funding.

3 (iii) Promote transparency and simplicity to aid in
4 the collection and distribution of information related to
5 infectious diseases in long-term care facilities;

6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the select subcommittee consist of five
8 members of the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee of the
9 House of Representatives, with three members appointed by the
10 chairperson of the committee and two members appointed by the
11 minority chairperson of the committee; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the chairperson and minority chairperson of
13 the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee of the House of
14 Representatives be ex officio members of the select
15 subcommittee; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the chairperson of the Aging and Older Adult
17 Services Committee of the House of Representatives shall appoint
18 the chairperson of the select subcommittee from among the
19 members of the select subcommittee; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the select subcommittee hold hearings, call
21 witnesses, take testimony and make investigations at places as
22 it deems necessary within this Commonwealth; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the chairperson of the select subcommittee be
24 authorized and empowered to:

25 (1) Send for persons and papers and subpoena witnesses,
26 documents and other materials under the hand and seal of the
27 chairperson.

28 (2) Administer oaths to witnesses.

29 (3) Take testimony.

30 (4) Prepare and file pleadings and other legal

1 documents;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a sergeant-at-arms or a deputy shall serve the
4 process of the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee and
5 select subcommittee and execute their orders. The Aging and
6 Older Adult Services Committee and the select subcommittee are
7 authorized to sit during the sessions of the House of
8 Representatives. The expenses of the investigation shall be paid
9 by the Chief Clerk from Appropriation Accounts under the Chief
10 Clerk's exclusive control and jurisdiction, upon a written
11 request approved by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
12 the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives or the
13 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee
16 of the House of Representatives assist the select subcommittee
17 to the fullest extent possible; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the select subcommittee submit a report of its
19 findings together with its recommendations for appropriate
20 legislation or other action to the Aging and Older Adult
21 Services Committee at the earliest practicable date.