
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 182 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, HOHENSTEIN, HILL-EVANS, GALLOWAY, ROZZI,
BOBACK, HOWARD, D. WILLIAMS, SCHLOSSBERG, FREEMAN, CIRESI,
PASHINSKI, WEBSTER, NEILSON, MALAGARI AND PISCIOTTANO,
MARCH 16, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
MARCH 16, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 comprehensive study on long-term care facilities in this
3 Commonwealth and issue a report of its findings and
4 recommendations to the General Assembly.

5 WHEREAS, More than 80,000 Pennsylvanians live in more than
6 700 long-term care facilities throughout this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Long-term care facilities provide 24-hour skilled
8 nursing care to residents who require assistance or supervision
9 to complete daily activities and cannot live in their homes; and

10 WHEREAS, While the Department of Health licenses and conducts
11 annual surveys of these facilities and handles complaints from
12 residents and families, there exists a disparity in the level of
13 care provided in facilities across this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, The Nursing Home Quality Improvement Task Force
15 within the Department of Health was established in 2015 to offer
16 recommendations on enhancing care and improving the safety of
17 long-term care facilities and the quality of life of their

1 residents; and

2 WHEREAS, Despite the findings of the Nursing Home Quality
3 Improvement Task Force, reports of inadequate and substandard
4 care persist; and

5 WHEREAS, An investigation published in November 2018 found
6 that care did not improve following a lawsuit against a chain of
7 long-term care facilities in this Commonwealth and the promise
8 of increased oversight from regulators; and

9 WHEREAS, As Pennsylvania's population ages, there is a need
10 for a better process to address deficiencies in long-term care
11 and a greater focus on person-centered care; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
13 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study on
14 long-term care facilities in this Commonwealth and issue a
15 report of its findings and recommendations to the General
16 Assembly; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission offer
18 legislative and regulatory recommendations to improve the care
19 provided to residents in long-term care facilities; and be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
22 how the following impact the care provided to, and quality of
23 life for, residents in long-term care facilities:

24 (1) nurse staffing competency and mix, staffing
25 requirements and ratios;

26 (2) person-centered care and culture change;

27 (3) the Department of Health survey process, including
28 the training, continuing education and retention of
29 surveyors;

30 (4) recruitment and retention of long-term care leaders,

1 including administrators and directors;

2 (5) Medicaid reimbursement rates and the amount of money
3 received from the Federal and State governments;

4 (6) value-based reimbursement which rewards facilities
5 that improve quality control, person-centered care and other
6 processes as measured by the Department of Health; and

7 (7) the role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in
8 Pennsylvania;

9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission accept
11 and review oral or written comments, documents and other
12 information from persons seeking to provide input regarding the
13 study on long-term care facilities; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That, for the purposes of the study, the Joint
15 State Government Commission solicit input from representatives
16 of all aspects of care in long-term care facilities, including,
17 but not limited to, the following:

18 (1) the Department of Aging;

19 (2) the Department of Health;

20 (3) the Department of Human Services;

21 (4) registered nurses, certified nursing assistants,
22 licensed practical nurses and other long-term care staff; and

23 (5) the Pennsylvania Health Care Association and any
24 other private advocacy organizations;

25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
27 report of its findings, along with any statutory or regulatory
28 recommendations, to the General Assembly within one year of the
29 adoption of this resolution.