

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20_____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20____
Reported _____	20____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the Office of Attorney General to investigate the
2 proliferation of prescription opioid drugs across this
3 Commonwealth, to investigate the cost of this proliferation
4 including, but not limited to, the costs to the emergency
5 health care, criminal justice, law enforcement and addiction
6 treatment systems, to develop a plan to recover damages to
7 the Commonwealth from drug manufacturers and distributors and
8 to establish the Pennsylvania Opioid Recovery Fund to fund
9 treatment of addiction to prescription and other drugs.

10 WHEREAS, There is a national and Statewide epidemic of
11 addiction and death from prescription opioid drugs; and

12 WHEREAS, The companies that manufacture and distribute
13 prescription opioid drugs are making enormous profits from this
14 epidemic; and

15 WHEREAS, The companies that manufacture and distribute
16 prescription opioid drugs know about the problem they have
17 created; and

18 WHEREAS, Prescription opioid overdose deaths have nearly
19 quadrupled between 1999 and 2007; and

20 WHEREAS, Between 1977 and 2007, the distribution of
21 prescription opioids has increased 627%; and

1 WHEREAS, Opioid analgesics are involved in more drug
2 poisoning deaths than any other drug; and

3 WHEREAS, Prescription drug overdose deaths, including
4 opioids, now outnumber deaths from heroin and cocaine combined;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Drug-related deaths outnumber traffic fatalities in
7 16 states including Pennsylvania (mostly attributable to
8 prescription opioids); and

9 WHEREAS, Admissions to addiction treatment for prescription
10 pain relievers, including prescription opioids, increased 430%
11 from 1999 to 2009; and

12 WHEREAS, Chronic, nonmedical use of prescription opioids has
13 increased 75% since 2002; and

14 WHEREAS, Emergency room admissions involving pharmaceuticals
15 doubled from 2004 to 2009 (630,000 to 1.2 million); and

16 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's families are suffering from the
17 epidemic of prescription opioid drugs, families are burying
18 their loved ones, our prisons are overcrowded with inmates, men
19 and women are incarcerated with addiction-related offenses and
20 daily, our cities and neighborhoods are under siege by drug-
21 fueled crimes; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request that the
23 Office of Attorney General investigate and address the
24 proliferation and diversion of prescription opioids by
25 undertaking to:

26 (1) review and use tools that are available to monitor,
27 evaluate and audit the movement, prescription, sale,
28 purchase, administration and effects of prescription opioids
29 as they pass through online pharmacies and through all
30 aspects of public and private supply chains and all phases of

1 the product lifecycle;

2 (2) review incentives, financial and otherwise, that
3 apply to participants and decision makers in public and
4 private supply chains and health care financing systems;

5 (3) review prescribing, pricing and reporting practices
6 and differences among and between various public and private
7 supply chains and health care financing systems;

8 (4) review compliance with all existing laws,
9 regulations, orders, agreements and other legal requirements;
10 and

11 (5) investigate and pursue recovery of the costs of this
12 proliferation to the Commonwealth and its citizens;

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request that the
15 Office of Attorney General in conjunction with the Department of
16 Drug and Alcohol Programs establish the Pennsylvania Opioid
17 Recovery Fund to fund treatment of addiction to prescription and
18 other drugs; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Office of Attorney General be requested to
20 recommend legislative and regulatory remedies as appropriate.

