

## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study of the extent to which rape kits remain  
3 unprocessed in this Commonwealth and identify the reasons  
4 that the kits remain untested.

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently  
6 reported that more than 3,000 rape kits are awaiting testing at  
7 law enforcement agencies and crime labs in this Commonwealth,  
8 including more than 1,800 rape kits that have been waiting 12  
9 months or longer to be tested; and

10 WHEREAS, Act 27 of 2015 provided a methodology for local law  
11 enforcement agencies to count the backlog of rape kits and  
12 established a three-year time frame to eliminate this backlog;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Certain legal requirements imposed by Act 27 of  
15 2015, including that victims provide written consent prior to  
16 rape kits being tested, that rape kits be picked up by a local  
17 law enforcement agency within 72 hours of being collected and  
18 that victims receive notification when a kit has been tested, do

1 not appear to be uniformly followed by all local law enforcement  
2 agencies within this Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies show that rapists tend to be serial  
4 criminals, thus increasing the urgency that rape kits be  
5 processed in a timely manner so the DNA information can be  
6 promptly entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's DNA  
7 database; and

8 WHEREAS, The Office of the Auditor General recently released  
9 an audit identifying many of these and other problems and making  
10 recommendations to address these issues; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the  
12 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of  
13 the extent to which rape kits remain unprocessed in this  
14 Commonwealth and identify the reasons that the kits remain  
15 untested; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
17 identify all possible sources of funding, including all  
18 available Federal funding, that could be used to expedite the  
19 processing of untested rape kits; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
21 assess the likelihood that local law enforcement agencies and  
22 crime labs in this Commonwealth will be able to meet the  
23 deadlines established in Act 27 of 2015 for eliminating the  
24 backlog of untested rape kits; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
26 assess compliance with the victim consent, victim notification,  
27 reporting and other requirements established by Act 27 of 2015  
28 with regard to the processing of rape kits; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
30 report its findings to the General Assembly within 180 days of

1 the adoption of this resolution.