

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

## No. 288

Session of  
1984

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INTRODUCED BY WACHOB, NOVEMBER 28, 1984

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ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 28, 1984

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### A RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Governor to appoint a committee to study  
2 programs operated for the placement of delinquent and  
3 dependent children.

4 WHEREAS, On Saturday, September 15, 1984, a 17-year-old boy  
5 was killed while running away from a program operated by  
6 VisionQuest; and

7 WHEREAS, This boy was placed in the care of VisionQuest by  
8 the court of common pleas of Allegheny County; and

9 WHEREAS, In the past four years, six children from  
10 Pennsylvania died while under the care and custody of  
11 VisionQuest; and

12 WHEREAS, The Department of Public Welfare is responsible for  
13 licensing and regulating programs for dependent and delinquent  
14 children; and

15 WHEREAS, On October 12, 1982, the Department of Public  
16 Welfare proposed changes and revisions in regulations relating  
17 to facilities and programs for children; and

18 WHEREAS, Juvenile court judges, child care workers and

1 citizens of our Commonwealth have questioned why current  
2 regulations and the Department of Public Welfare could not  
3 prevent these tragedies; therefore be it

4       RESOLVED, That the General Assembly memorialize the Governor  
5 to appoint a committee comprised of judges, concerned citizens,  
6 State officials and other professionals to study the program  
7 operated by VisionQuest and other programs operated for the  
8 placement of delinquent and dependent children and the ability  
9 of such programs to provide adequately for the health, safety  
10 and care of the children in their custody; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That the committee reports its findings to the  
12 Governor and General Assembly in six months; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the Department of Public Welfare delay in  
14 promulgating new regulations relating to minimum standards for  
15 residential placement of children and youth until the findings  
16 of the special committee are made.