

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 97

Session of 1999

INTRODUCED BY DENT, O'PAKE, JUBELIRER, CONTI, EARLL, COSTA, STAPLETON, MOWERY, WHITE, SALVATORE, TARTAGLIONE, BELL, GERLACH, WAUGH, SCHWARTZ, MELLOW, HART, BOSCOLA, SLOCUM AND KASUNIC, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

AMENDED, OCTOBER 26, 1999

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 ~~Establishing~~ DIRECTING THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO <—  
2 ESTABLISH a task force to study issues relating to the  
3 Commonwealth's children and youth services delivery system on  
4 an ongoing basis and to make recommendations to the General  
5 Assembly.

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's children and youth services  
7 delivery system is a joint responsibility of the Department of  
8 Public Welfare and county government; and

9 WHEREAS, Each county is responsible for developing and  
10 administering a program of services designed to treat and  
11 prevent child abuse, neglect and exploitation; and

12 WHEREAS, It is anticipated that changes will continue to  
13 occur in the children and youth services delivery system and in  
14 the dynamics of children's issues in the future; and

15 WHEREAS, The mission of children and youth services, to first  
16 serve those children most at risk of abuse, neglect and  
17 exploitation, is difficult to fulfill because of the severity of  
18 child abuse cases and the escalating incidence of child sexual

1 abuse cases; and

2 WHEREAS, Fulfilling this mission is further complicated by  
3 increasing caseloads, which include services to parents and  
4 children to enable children to remain in their homes and  
5 communities, placement services for children who cannot live  
6 with their birth family, adoption services, assistance to  
7 provide a permanent legal family for any child who cannot be  
8 returned to a birth family and any service or care ordered by  
9 the court for children; and

10 WHEREAS, The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
11 recently released the results of a performance audit on children  
12 and youth agencies in this Commonwealth which provided a  
13 comprehensive review of the children and youth services delivery  
14 system and contained recommendations regarding the effectiveness  
15 of the operation and management of the system in meeting  
16 statutory and regulatory responsibilities for at-risk children  
17 and families; and

18 WHEREAS, There is a need for a comprehensive bicameral and  
19 bipartisan ongoing review of issues relating to the delivery of  
20 children and youth services to ensure that these services meet  
21 the needs of at-risk children and families; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
23 General Assembly DIRECT THE JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION TO <—  
24 establish a task force of four members of the Senate and four  
25 members of the House of Representatives to undertake an ongoing  
26 study of the children and youth services delivery system in this  
27 Commonwealth in order to ascertain whether it is meeting the  
28 needs of at-risk children and families and, if it is not meeting  
29 those needs, to recommend appropriate corrective measures; and  
30 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore of the Senate and  
2 the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
3 Representatives and the Minority Leader of the House of  
4 Representatives each appoint two members to the task force; and  
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the initial area of task force review be  
7 placement services for children who cannot live with their birth  
8 family; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the task force prioritize other issues dealing  
10 with children and youth services and address them accordingly;  
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That THE TASK FORCE IS AUTHORIZED TO CREATE an <—  
13 advisory committee ~~be created~~ to assist the task force, composed <—  
14 of individuals deemed appropriate by the task force; and be it  
15 further

16 ~~RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission assist <—~~  
17 ~~the task force and the advisory committee in carrying out the~~  
18 ~~functions of the task force; and be it further~~

19 RESOLVED, That the task force, from time to time, present its  
20 findings and recommended legislation to the General Assembly.