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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**No. 98**

Session of  
1999

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INTRODUCED BY MOWERY, HOLL, TARTAGLIONE, LEMMOND, THOMPSON,  
MURPHY, BODACK, KUKOVICH AND SLOCUM, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

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REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, SEPTEMBER 23, 1999

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Amending Senate Resolution No. 8, adopted June 16, 1999,  
2 entitled "A concurrent resolution directing the Joint State  
3 Government Commission to create a bipartisan task force to  
4 study the feasibility of changing the date of general primary  
5 elections and municipal primary elections to September,"  
6 further providing for the date of the report to the General  
7 Assembly.

8 RESOLVED, That Senate Resolution No. 8, adopted June 16,  
9 1999, be amended to read:

10 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

11 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to create a  
12 bipartisan task force to study the feasibility of changing  
13 the date of general primary elections and municipal primary  
14 elections to September.

15 WHEREAS, The number of registered voters in this Commonwealth  
16 has increased while the number of people voting in elections  
17 continues to decrease; and

18 WHEREAS, This decrease may be due to, among other things,  
19 negative attitudes resulting from longer campaign seasons and  
20 negative campaigning; and

1       WHEREAS, The six-month period between the primary in the  
2 spring and the general election in November necessitates the  
3 raising of more money for campaigning than would a two-month  
4 period and thus increases the influence of money on the  
5 political process; therefore be it

6       RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the  
7 General Assembly direct the Joint State Government Commission to  
8 create a bipartisan task force consisting of two members  
9 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, two  
10 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, two  
11 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
12 and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
13 Representatives; and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the task force create an advisory committee  
15 composed of one representative from, and designated by, each of  
16 the following: the Bureau of Election of the Department of  
17 State, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the  
18 Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, the Pennsylvania  
19 State Association of Township Commissioners, the Pennsylvania  
20 State Association of Township Supervisors and the Pennsylvania  
21 League of Cities and Municipalities and such additional members  
22 as the task force shall deem appropriate; and be it further

23       RESOLVED, That the task force shall study the feasibility of  
24 changing general primary elections and municipal primary  
25 elections to September, along with the question of the timing of  
26 the presidential primaries and the possibility of separating the  
27 presidential primary from the primary for nominations to other  
28 public offices which study shall analyze and estimate the costs  
29 to the State and county governments to make the change, as well  
30 as the impact such a change could have on reducing election

1 campaigning and campaign finance costs; and be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That the [Joint State Government Commission] task  
3 force report its findings, recommendations and proposed  
4 legislation to the General Assembly no later than September 1,  
5 [1999] 2000.