
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 220 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY C. WILLIAMS, BELFANTI, BEBKO-JONES, CALTAGIRONE,
COLAFELLA, CURRY, DALEY, DERMODY, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HARHAI,
JAMES, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, MACKERETH, MANDERINO,
MANN, McILHATTAN, MELIO, METCALFE, S. MILLER, NAILOR,
PALLONE, PISTELLA, ROEBUCK, RUBLEY, SHANER, B. SMITH,
SOLOBAY, STEELMAN, T. STEVENSON, STURLA, THOMAS, TIGUE,
WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WATSON, J. WILLIAMS, WOJNAROSKI
AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 9, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, MAY 9, 2001

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Committee on Education to examine and study
2 matters relating to the participation of students with
3 disabilities in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
4 (PSSA) and the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment
5 (PASA); and providing for its powers and duties.

6 WHEREAS, The 1997 amendments to the Individuals with
7 Disabilities Education Act require that students with
8 disabilities be included in Statewide assessment programs, with
9 appropriate accommodations where necessary; and

10 WHEREAS, The Federal law requires the Pennsylvania Department
11 of Education to develop guidelines for the participation of
12 students with disabilities in alternate assessments; and

13 WHEREAS, The Department of Education has implemented the
14 Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), which
15 measures the knowledge and skills of children with significant
16 cognitive disabilities for whom the Pennsylvania System of

1 School Assessment (PSSA) is not appropriate; and

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Education has established criteria
3 for school districts in determining participation of students
4 with disabilities in State assessments; and

5 WHEREAS, All students are required to participate in the PSSA
6 or the PASA; and

7 WHEREAS, As the PSSA has increasingly become a high-stakes
8 test in which districts earn performance funding grants or are
9 designated empowerment districts based on student performance,
10 it is imperative to review State policies along with the
11 experiences of school administrators, teachers and parents of
12 students with disabilities who have taken the State assessment
13 tests; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Committee on Education of the House of
15 Representatives examine and study all matters related to
16 students with disabilities and their participation in the PSSA
17 or the PASA; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Committee on Education hold hearings for
19 the purpose of taking testimony; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Committee on Education report its findings
21 and recommendations to the whole House of Representatives by
22 November 1, 2001.