

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 371 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY C. WILLIAMS, BELFANTI, BENNINGHOFF, CAPPELLI,
CORRIGAN, CURRY, D. EVANS, FRANKEL, HERSHEY, HORSEY, JAMES,
JOSEPHS, LESCOVITZ, MANN, MELIO, ROONEY, RUBLEY, SCRIMENTI,
SHANER, SOLOBAY, TANGRETTI, TIGUE, TRICH, WASHINGTON,
YOUNGBLOOD, G. WRIGHT, STABACK, BROWNE AND THOMAS,
NOVEMBER 26, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, NOVEMBER 26, 2001

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Board of Medicine in consultation with the Board
2 of Pharmacy to study the sale of prescription drugs in this
3 Commonwealth via the Internet.

4 WHEREAS, Among the inroads the Internet is making in
5 medicine, patients can communicate with their doctors through
6 electronic mail, order prescription refills through on-line
7 pharmacies and access medical journals 24 hours a day, 7 days a
8 week; and

9 WHEREAS, Despite these and other enhancements in accessing
10 health care professionals and medical information, the Internet
11 has made it possible for American consumers to purchase powerful
12 prescription drugs, including some not yet approved for sale in
13 the United States, without seeing a doctor; and

14 WHEREAS, Supporters of Internet sales of prescription drugs
15 argue that consumers are knowledgeable enough to buy medicines
16 over the Internet and that patients should be free to purchase

1 certain drugs without the inconvenience or embarrassment of in-
2 person doctor visits; and

3 WHEREAS, Many health care experts and Government regulators
4 fear that the growing trend toward purchasing prescription drugs
5 over the Internet could endanger or kill patients; and

6 WHEREAS, It is illegal for doctors to prescribe drugs in a
7 state where they are not licensed to practice, and licensed
8 doctors must meet standards of care that in most states require
9 a doctor-patient relationship to prescribe drugs; and

10 WHEREAS, These laws and regulations were written before
11 widespread use of the Internet; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
13 direct the Board of Medicine in consultation with the Board of
14 Pharmacy to study the sale of prescription drugs in this
15 Commonwealth via the Internet; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That all Commonwealth agencies, upon request,
17 assist the boards for the purposes of the study; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the Board of Medicine in consultation with the
20 Board of Pharmacy report findings, recommendations and any
21 proposed legislation to the General Assembly within one year of
22 adoption of this resolution.