
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 394 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY DeWEESE, G. WRIGHT, TRAVAGLIO, STEELMAN, VEON,
OLIVER, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI,
COY, DeLUCA, D. EVANS, FICHTER, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI,
HERSHEY, JAMES, LESCOVITZ, MARKOSEK, MELIO, READSHAW, ROONEY,
SANTONI, SHANER, SURRA, TRICH, WALKO, YEWIC, YUDICHAK, CRUZ,
MYERS, CASORIO, EACHUS AND McCALL, JANUARY 23, 2002

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
JANUARY 23, 2002

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to apply immediately, through an executive
2 agency, for a planning grant from the Health Resources and
3 Services Administration to describe and plan for the health
4 care access needs of uninsured Pennsylvanians; and to direct
5 the Health Care Cost Containment Council to conduct the
6 required study if a grant is received.

7 WHEREAS, Ten and one-half percent or 1,200,000 citizens of
8 this Commonwealth were without health insurance in 1999, and
9 this number will assuredly increase in our present economic
10 climate; and

11 WHEREAS, Health care spending is on the rise, increasing 7%
12 in 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, The cost of health insurance premiums rose by 8.4%
14 in 2000; and

15 WHEREAS, "Medical indigency," the state of being unable to
16 afford health insurance or access to appropriate medical care,
17 is a condition in which any citizen of this Commonwealth may be,

1 through illness, loss of a job, change in benefits or change in
2 marital status; and

3 WHEREAS, Our slowing economy will lead employers to reduce
4 costs by cutting benefits and laying off workers, resulting in
5 even more families in this Commonwealth without health insurance
6 or access to health care; and

7 WHEREAS, The Health Resources and Services Administration of
8 the Department of Health and Human Services is making planning
9 grants available to states or state government entities
10 designated by the governor to develop plans for providing access
11 to affordable health insurance coverage for all their citizens;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Health Resources and Services Administration
14 gives preference in awarding grants to states with lower levels
15 of uninsured; and

16 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's 10.5% of citizens uninsured
17 compares favorably with states such as New Jersey, with 16% of
18 citizens uninsured, Delaware, with 14% of citizens uninsured,
19 and Texas, with 24% of citizens uninsured; and

20 WHEREAS, This gives the Commonwealth a good chance of being
21 awarded a planning grant; and

22 WHEREAS, The Health Care Cost Containment Council has, among
23 its many statutorily dictated duties, the task of studying the
24 medically indigent population, the magnitude of uncompensated
25 care for the medically indigent, the degree of access to and the
26 result of any lack of access by the medically indigent to
27 appropriate care, the types of providers and settings in which
28 they provide indigent care and the cost of the provision of that
29 care; and

30 WHEREAS, The Health Care Cost Containment Council is ideally

1 and statutorily charged to accept and work with such a planning
2 grant and to design, administer, evaluate and report on a
3 planning study; and

4 WHEREAS, The deadline for submission of applications for
5 planning grants is March 1, 2002; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the Governor
7 to immediately apply, through an executive agency, for a
8 planning grant from the Health Resources and Services
9 Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services
10 and to designate the Health Care Cost Containment Council as the
11 agency to conduct the necessary work of describing the uninsured
12 population and making recommendations for improving access to
13 affordable health insurance for uninsured citizens in this
14 Commonwealth if a grant is received; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Health Care Cost Containment Council
16 submit the results of its planning study and recommendations for
17 remedial legislation or other appropriate action to the Governor
18 and to the General Assembly within one year of receiving a
19 planning grant.