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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**No. 168**      Session of  
2002

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INTRODUCED BY C. WILLIAMS, KUKOVICH, EARLL, COSTA, STOUT,  
KITCHEN AND LOGAN, MARCH 5, 2002

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 5, 2002

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Education Committee to examine and study matters  
2 relating to the participation of students with disabilities  
3 in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and  
4 the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA); and  
5 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  
17 School Assessment (PSSA) is not appropriate; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Education has established criteria  
19 for school districts in determining participation of students

1 with disabilities in State assessments; and

2 WHEREAS, All students are required to participate in the PSSA  
3 or the PASA; and

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

11 RESOLVED, That the Education Committee of the Senate examine  
12 and study all matters related to students with disabilities and  
13 their participation in the PSSA or the PASA; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Education Committee hold hearings for the  
15 purpose of taking testimony; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Education Committee report its findings  
17 and recommendations to the Senate by July 1, 2002.