

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 195 Session of  
2005

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, RHOADES, COSTA, WENGER, ERICKSON, GREENLEAF,  
KASUNIC, BRIGHTBILL, MUSTO, LEMMOND, LOGAN, MELLOW, WAUGH,  
LAVALLE, WOZNIAK, ARMSTRONG, PIPPY, WONDERLING, M. WHITE,  
STACK, RAFFERTY AND BROWNE, OCTOBER 31, 2005

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 31, 2005

## A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study and  
2 offer an evaluation of the efficacy of directing the 501  
3 school districts of the Commonwealth to engage in group  
4 purchasing of employee health care benefits.

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has 501 different school districts in  
6 67 counties; and

7 WHEREAS, Each of these school districts has many employees,  
8 including, but not limited to, professional, administrative,  
9 clerical, maintenance and custodial employees; and

10 WHEREAS, Health care benefits often include, but are not  
11 limited to, medical insurance, prescription drug coverage,  
12 dental insurance and a vision plan, and are generally provided  
13 as part of the salary or wages paid to each employee of these  
14 school districts; and

15 WHEREAS, Many of our 501 school districts seek out their own  
16 providers of employee health care benefits; and

17 WHEREAS, These individual plans vary widely in scope and  
18 breadth; and

1       WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Employee Benefit Trust Fund  
2       currently administers health care benefits for approximately  
3       85,000 State employees and 52,000 retirees; and

4       WHEREAS, Economies of scale and group purchasing might result  
5       in lower costs for each of our 501 school districts as well as  
6       the standardization of benefits; therefore be it

7       RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
8       Commission to study the current health care benefits, providers  
9       and costs of employee health care benefits offered by each of  
10      Pennsylvania's 501 school districts; and be it further

11      RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission compare  
12      benefits currently offered by school districts with benefits  
13      negotiated for and administered by the Pennsylvania Employee  
14      Benefit Trust Fund; and be it further

15      RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission consider  
16      and formulate a recommendation on whether the health care  
17      benefits of Pennsylvania's 501 school districts should be  
18      negotiated for and administered by the Pennsylvania Employee  
19      Benefit Trust Fund; and be it further

20      RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report  
21      its findings and recommendation to the Senate no later than  
22      November 30, 2006.