

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**HOUSE RESOLUTION****No. 334** Session of  
2007

---

INTRODUCED BY BIANCUCCI, DeLUCA, EACHUS, DeWEESE, McCALL, BELFANTI, BENNINGTON, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CASORIO, CONKLIN, DePASQUALE, FAIRCHILD, FREEMAN, GALLOWAY, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, HANNA, HARHAI, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, JAMES, KESSLER, KING, KORTZ, KULA, LENTZ, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, McILVAINE SMITH, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, PAYTON, PETRARCA, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SEIP, SHIMKUS, SIPTROTH, K. SMITH, M. SMITH, STURLA, R. TAYLOR, WALKO, WANSACZ, WHEATLEY, J. WHITE, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK, KIRKLAND, SOLOBAY, FABRIZIO, READSHAW, SURRA, COSTA AND RAMALEY, JUNE 14, 2007

---

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 25, 2007

---

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the appointment of a task force to study affordable  
2 health care insurance, health care access and quality health  
3 care services for the citizens of this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Health care costs have been increasing twice as fast  
5 as average wages in this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 767,000 Pennsylvanians remain  
7 uninsured; and

8 WHEREAS, The large number of uninsured workers has a negative  
9 impact on the economy and productivity in this Commonwealth  
10 because insured workers are healthier and use fewer sick days;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Edward G. Rendell has proposed an ambitious  
13 and laudable plan to provide health insurance for every  
14 Pennsylvanian; and

1       WHEREAS, While the health care crisis is a national concern,  
2 solutions addressing three fundamental issues--affordability,  
3 accessibility and quality--can drive down health care costs and  
4 improve the well-being of citizens in this Commonwealth; and

5       WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has a clear interest in ensuring  
6 that families and small employers in this Commonwealth can  
7 afford health insurance because the cost of uninsured  
8 Pennsylvanians drives up the cost of health care for all insured  
9 citizens; and

10       WHEREAS, An estimated 6.5% of insurance premiums reflect the  
11 more than \$1 billion required each year to offset the health  
12 care charges for the uninsured; and

13       WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must contain health care coverage  
14 premium increases for small employers, ensure the availability  
15 of affordable health care coverage for workers who lose health  
16 care benefits and the use of a substantial portion of premiums  
17 for small employers to pay medical claims and require  
18 justification for premium increases; and

19       WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's health care market should be as  
20 transparent as possible so all consumers can make well-informed  
21 decisions in determining their health care choices and needs;  
22 and

23       WHEREAS, In order for the Commonwealth to expand access to  
24 quality health care, all health care professionals need to be  
25 able to practice to the fullest extent of their education,  
26 training and skills while maintaining the highest level of  
27 patient safety in the delivery of health care services; and

28       WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is paying billions of dollars each  
29 year in avoidable health care costs; and

30       WHEREAS, Hospitals and health care providers need to focus on

1 medical errors that drive up health care costs and increase the  
2 risk of negative outcomes or extended stays in hospitals; and

3 WHEREAS, The charges for uncompensated care for uninsured  
4 persons, additional days of hospital care due to potentially  
5 avoidable hospital-acquired infections, medical errors,  
6 readmissions for complications or infections and avoidable  
7 hospitalizations due to inadequate care of patients with chronic  
8 diseases total \$7.6 billion per year; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
10 establish a task force to study affordable health care  
11 insurance, health care access and quality health care services  
12 ~~for the~~ AS THEY RELATE TO PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO UNINSURED ←  
13 citizens of this Commonwealth; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the task force shall explore all potential  
15 funding sources so that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can  
16 guarantee health insurance coverage for all of its residents;  
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the task force be comprised of the following  
19 members:

20 (1) The chairman and minority chairman of the Public  
21 Health and Welfare Committee of the Senate.

22 (2) The chairman and minority chairman of the Health and  
23 Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives.

24 (3) The chairman and minority chairman of the Banking  
25 and Insurance Committee of the Senate.

26 (4) The chairman and minority chairman of the Insurance  
27 Committee of the House of Representatives.

28 (5) The chairman and minority chairman of the Consumer  
29 Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of the  
30 Senate.

1           (6) The chairman and minority chairman of the  
2 Professional Licensure Committee of the House of  
3 Representatives.

4           (7) The director of the Governor's Office of Health Care  
5 Reform or a designee.

6           (8) The Insurance Commissioner or a designee.

7           (9) The Secretary of Health or a designee.

8           ~~(10) One member appointed by the President pro tempore~~ ←  
9 ~~of the Senate.~~

10          ~~(11) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the~~  
11 ~~Senate.~~

12          ~~(12) One member appointed by the Majority Leader of the~~  
13 ~~House of Representatives.~~

14          ~~(13) One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the~~  
15 ~~House of Representatives.~~

16          ~~(14) Five members appointed by the Governor to~~

17          (10) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WELFARE OR A DESIGNEE. ←

18          (11) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE  
19 OF THE SENATE.

20          (12) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
21 SENATE.

22          (13) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE  
23 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

24          (14) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
25 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

26          (15) SIX MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO include:

27           (i) A representative of hospitals or health systems.

28           (ii) A physician.

29           (iii) A representative of the health insurance  
30 industry.

1 (iv) A representative of organized labor  
2 representing licensed health care professionals.

3 (v) A representative of small business. ←

4 (VI) A PATIENT ADVOCATE;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That task force members be appointed within 30 days  
7 of the adoption of this resolution; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That within 15 days of the respective task force  
9 appointments, the director of the Governor's Office of Health  
10 Care Reform call the initial meeting of the task force, and at  
11 such meeting the members elect a chairperson; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the task force be authorized to hold hearings,  
13 take testimony and make investigations at such places as it  
14 deems necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That each member of the task force have power to  
16 administer oaths and affirmations to witnesses appearing before  
17 the task force; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That within 120 days of adoption of this  
19 resolution, the task force report to the General Assembly on its  
20 activities and findings and make recommendations; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That expenses incurred by the task force in  
23 carrying out its responsibilities, including per diem and travel  
24 expenses incurred by members and regular staff, stenographic  
25 charges and other incidental expenses, be paid from appropriate  
26 accounts under the control of the Chief Clerk of the Senate and  
27 the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives, one-half of the  
28 expenses of the members to be paid by the Senate and one-half of  
29 the expenses to be paid by the House of Representatives; and be  
30 it further

1       RESOLVED, That within 30 days after the task force has made  
2 its report, the chairperson cause a record of all expenses  
3 incurred by the members of the task force, which are payable at  
4 Commonwealth expense, to be filed with the Chief Clerk of the  
5 Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.