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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 562 Session of  
2008

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INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, ARGALL, BARRAR, BEAR, BEYER, BROOKS, COX, CUTLER, DePASQUALE, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, GEIST, GINGRICH, HARPER, HELM, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, M. KELLER, KORTZ, LEACH, MAHER, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANTZ, MARSHALL, MUSTIO, NAILOR, NICKOL, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PEIFER, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, QUINN, REICHLEY, ROAE, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STAIRS, STEIL, STERN, R. STEVENSON, SWANGER, TANGRETTI, THOMAS, TRUE, TURZAI, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WANSACZ, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, YUDICHAK AND CLYMER, JANUARY 23, 2008

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR RELATIONS, JANUARY 23, 2008

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A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a special subcommittee of the Labor Relations  
2 Committee to study school strikes.

3 WHEREAS, School employee strikes have a disruptive effect on  
4 the school calendar, affecting athletic and extracurricular  
5 schedules, school holidays, family vacations and family child  
6 care arrangements, and they strain relationships within the  
7 community and the school district; and

8 WHEREAS, Article XI-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,  
9 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, regulates the  
10 collective bargaining process between public school districts  
11 and their employees; and

12 WHEREAS, Although Article XI-A of the Public School Code of  
13 1949 has reduced the number of teacher strikes since its  
14 implementation, there are still too many ongoing collective

1 bargaining disputes which lead to strikes by public school  
2 employees; and

3 WHEREAS, It has been difficult for either chamber of the  
4 General Assembly to reach a consensus on how to amend Article  
5 XI-A of the Public School Code of 1949 to reduce or end school  
6 strikes, as evidenced by the fact that neither chamber has  
7 passed a legislative proposal to reduce teacher strikes since  
8 the 1995-1996 session; and

9 WHEREAS, Numerous legislative proposals have been introduced  
10 since 1995, and there have been occasional public hearings on  
11 various proposals, but neither body has been able to reach a  
12 consensus on any of these proposals; and

13 WHEREAS, In order to reach a consensus on any proposal to  
14 reduce or end public school strikes, that proposal will have to  
15 be the result of a bipartisan effort; and

16 WHEREAS, There has been no bipartisan task force or  
17 subcommittee in the recent past established to examine changes  
18 to the current collective bargaining process; and

19 WHEREAS, A need exists for a comprehensive, bipartisan effort  
20 by the House of Representatives to examine the current state of  
21 the collective bargaining process as it relates to the  
22 Commonwealth's public schools and for a bipartisan review of the  
23 various proposals that have been offered to attempt to improve  
24 this process; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the Labor Relations Committee of the House of  
26 Representatives establish the Subcommittee on School Strikes to  
27 study to issue of school strikes in order to recommend  
28 improvements to current law or viable alternatives, both  
29 legislative and nonlegislative, to curtail the negative effects  
30 of these strikes on the welfare of the students of this

1 Commonwealth's public schools, on the entire educational process  
2 and on the communities of this Commonwealth; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the subcommittee conduct public hearings and  
4 working panels to actively solicit input from around this  
5 Commonwealth from the general public and interest groups; and be  
6 it further

7       RESOLVED, That the subcommittee, in the course of this study,  
8 consult with individuals recognized as experts in the field of  
9 public sector labor relations; and be it further

10       RESOLVED, That the subcommittee report to the House of  
11 Representatives with its recommendations, including a specific  
12 bipartisan legislative proposal, by July 1, 2008.