

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 123 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY MANN, SOLOBAY, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRENNAN,
 CREIGHTON, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARRIS,
 KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, M. O'BRIEN, PALLONE, PHILLIPS,
 READSHAW, SAYLOR, SIPTROTH, VULAKOVICH AND WHEATLEY,
 MARCH 6, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 6,
 2009

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to create a pain
 2 task force and a pain task force advisory committee to
 3 promote professional and public education and awareness and
 4 to improve the quality of care for the residents of this
 5 Commonwealth who are suffering from pain.

6 WHEREAS, Pain can be classified as acute pain, such as pain
 7 following injury, acute medical illness or surgery, chronic
 8 pain, including, but not limited to, chronic low-back pain,
 9 fibromyalgia, headache and chronic illness, such as lupus or
 10 multiple sclerosis, cancer-related pain and pain in patients
 11 with life-limiting illness; and

12 WHEREAS, Unrelieved acute pain increases suffering, can slow
 13 recovery and is associated with an increased risk of
 14 complications, including death; and

15 WHEREAS, Unrelieved acute pain is common, with up to 40% of
 16 postoperative patients reporting inadequate pain relief; and

17 WHEREAS, As many as 15% to 25% of adults outside of hospitals

1 and other medical settings suffer from chronic pain at any given
2 time, a figure that increases to 50% in adults 65 years of age
3 and older; and

4 WHEREAS, Chronic pain is associated with significant
5 suffering, including compromise of physical and psychosocial
6 functioning, such as depression and anxiety; and

7 WHEREAS, Chronic pain leads to lost or compromised workdays
8 that equate to an estimated \$50 to \$70 billion in the United
9 States per year; and

10 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of people who have cancer suffer from pain
11 caused by the disease or its treatment; and

12 WHEREAS, People who have advanced cancer describe their pain
13 as moderate to severe 40% to 50% of the time and as very severe
14 25% to 30% of the time; and

15 WHEREAS, There are now several published clinical practice
16 guidelines regarding the diagnosis and treatment of acute,
17 chronic and cancer-related pain and pain associated with life-
18 limiting illness, and the Congress of the United States declared
19 2001-2010 as the "Decade of Pain Control and Research"; and

20 WHEREAS, In spite of the availability of published treatment
21 guidelines, many residents of this Commonwealth continue to
22 suffer from poorly controlled pain due to a variety of reasons;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
25 direct the Joint State Government Commission to create a pain
26 task force consisting of two members appointed by the President
27 pro tempore of the Senate, two members appointed by the Minority
28 Leader of the Senate, two members appointed by the Speaker of
29 the House of Representatives and two members appointed by the
30 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the task force create an advisory committee
3 to assist in accomplishing its responsibilities and consisting
4 of members with knowledge and expertise regarding pain research,
5 prevention, treatment, educational programs and consumer needs;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of one
8 representative from and designated by the Department of Health,
9 the Office of Attorney General, the Pennsylvania Medical
10 Society, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, the
11 American College of Physicians, the Pennsylvania Society of
12 Oncology and Hematology, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse
13 Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists,
14 Inc., the American Society for Pain Management Nursing, the
15 Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association, the Pennsylvania
16 Psychiatric Society, the American Cancer Society, the
17 Pennsylvania Cancer Pain Initiative, the Arthritis Foundation,
18 The Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania, the National Multiple
19 Sclerosis Society, the American Pain Society, the American Pain
20 Foundation, the Pennsylvania Homecare Association, the
21 Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association or the Chiropractic
22 Fellowship of Pennsylvania, the Association for Professional
23 Acupuncture in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Pain Coalition,
24 one representative of the Pennsylvania rehabilitation industry
25 and two representatives of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical
26 industries; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the task force present to the General Assembly
28 a report evaluating the barriers to good pain care in this
29 Commonwealth and make suggestions for actions to improve pain
30 care within this Commonwealth; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the task force study the feasibility of
2 developing and implementing a comprehensive Statewide public
3 education program on pain management to:

4 (1) Promote public awareness regarding proper pain
5 management.

6 (2) Promote understanding of the importance of early
7 diagnosis and proper treatment and management.

8 (3) Improve the delivery of appropriate information,
9 programs and services and access to the most effective
10 treatments for pain.

11 (4) Encourage research into the nature, cause and
12 treatment of pain;

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the task force, in accomplishing its missions,
15 take into account guidelines that have been promulgated by
16 nationally recognized organizations that deal with pain; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the task force recommend an appropriate means
19 of disseminating information to the professional community and
20 the general public; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the task force recommend sources of funds to
22 carry out its recommendations; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the task force report its findings directly to
24 the General Assembly no later than one year after the adoption
25 of this resolution.