

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 354 Session of  
2011

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, STERN, TOOHL, LAWRENCE, CLYMER, FARRY,  
MASSER, CUTLER AND AUMENT, JUNE 24, 2011

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 24, 2011

## A RESOLUTION

1 Promoting awareness of atrial fibrillation and urging the  
2 Secretary of Health to prioritize atrial fibrillation and  
3 implement programs, evaluation, assessment and policy changes  
4 that will reduce the burden of this costly, progressive  
5 disease.

6 WHEREAS, Atrial fibrillation is a cardiac condition which  
7 occurs when the usually coordinated electrical activity in the  
8 atria of the heart becomes disorganized and chaotic; and

9 WHEREAS, This condition hampers the atria's ability to  
10 transmit blood to the ventricles, causing blood to pool in the  
11 atria and form clots; and

12 WHEREAS, An estimated 2.5 million Americans are living with  
13 atrial fibrillation, and because the risk increases with age,  
14 this number is expected to rise dramatically as the average  
15 population gets older; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2007, 146,945 Medicare beneficiaries in  
17 Pennsylvania used health care services to treat atrial  
18 fibrillation; and

19 WHEREAS, It is the most common serious heart rhythm

1 abnormality in people over the age of 65 and is associated with  
2 an increased risk of stroke, heart failure and mortality,  
3 especially among women; and

4 WHEREAS, An estimated 15% of strokes are the result of  
5 untreated atrial fibrillation; and

6 WHEREAS, People over the age of 40 have a one-in-four risk of  
7 developing atrial fibrillation in their lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, An electrocardiogram is an effective and risk-free  
9 means of detecting heart rhythm irregularities and can be a part  
10 of a routine physical examination; and

11 WHEREAS, There is a growing number of measures to manage  
12 treatment of atrial fibrillation in patients, and improved care  
13 should lead to a decrease in the hospitalization of persons with  
14 atrial fibrillation; and

15 WHEREAS, Better patient and health care provider awareness of  
16 atrial fibrillation symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and  
17 progressive nature is needed; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives promote awareness  
19 of atrial fibrillation and urge the Secretary of Health to  
20 prioritize atrial fibrillation and implement programs,  
21 evaluation, assessment and policy changes that will reduce the  
22 burden of this costly, progressive disease; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That these changes include the following:

24 (1) Advancing the development of process and outcome  
25 measures for the management of atrial fibrillation by  
26 national developers.

27 (2) Supporting pilot and demonstration projects,  
28 including care transitions, support services and appropriate  
29 postacute care, to reduce avoidable hospital admissions and  
30 readmissions for patients with atrial fibrillation.

1           (3) Facilitating the adoption of evidence-based  
2 guidelines by the medical community to improve patient  
3 outcomes and advance atrial fibrillation research and  
4 education.