
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 39 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, FONTANA, BREWSTER, RAFFERTY, KASUNIC,
KITCHEN, BOSCOLA AND FERLO, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, FEBRUARY 17, 2011

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative and Budget Finance Committee to create
2 a Pain 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 citizens of this
5 Commonwealth who are suffering from pain.

6 WHEREAS, Pain can be classified as follows:

7 (1) acute pain, such as the pain following injury, acute
8 medical illness or surgery;

9 (2) chronic pain, such as chronic low back pain,
10 fibromyalgia, headache or chronic illness, such as lupus or
11 multiple sclerosis;

12 (3) cancer-related pain, including pain associated with
13 cancer and its treatment;

14 (4) pain in patients with life-limiting illness;

15 and

16 WHEREAS, Unrelieved acute pain increases suffering, can slow
17 recovery and is associated with an increased risk of
18 complications including death; and

19 WHEREAS, Unrelieved acute pain is common, with up to 40% of

1 postoperative patients reporting inadequate pain relief; and

2 WHEREAS, Fifteen to 25% of community-based adults suffer from
3 chronic pain at any given time, a figure that increases to 50%
4 in adults over 65 years of age; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of people with cancer suffer from pain
12 caused by their disease or its treatment; and

13 WHEREAS, People with advanced cancer describe their pain as
14 moderate to severe 40% to 50% of the time and very severe 25% to
15 30% of the time; and

16 WHEREAS, There are now several published clinical practice
17 guidelines regarding the diagnosis and treatment of acute,
18 chronic, cancer-related pain and pain associated with life-
19 limiting illness, and the United States Congress declared
20 2001-2010 as the "Decade of Pain Control and Research"; and

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

25 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
26 General Assembly direct the Legislative and Budget Finance
27 Committee to create a Pain Task Force consisting of two members
28 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, two
29 members appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, two
30 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

1 and two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
2 Representatives; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force create a Pain Task Force
4 Advisory Committee to assist in accomplishing each of its
5 responsibilities. The Pain Task Force Advisory Committee shall
6 consist of 25 members who are individuals with knowledge and
7 expertise regarding pain research, prevention, treatment,
8 educational programs and consumer needs, to guide program
9 development; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the committee be composed of one
11 representative from and designated by the following:

- 12 (1) Department of Health.
- 13 (2) Office of Attorney General.
- 14 (3) Pennsylvania Medical Society.
- 15 (4) Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.
- 16 (5) American College of Physicians.
- 17 (6) Pennsylvania Society for Oncology and Hematology.
- 18 (7) Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners.
- 19 (8) Pennsylvania Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.
- 20 (9) American Society for Pain Management Nursing.
- 21 (10) Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.
- 22 (11) Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society.
- 23 (12) American Cancer Society.
- 24 (13) Pennsylvania Cancer Pain Initiative.
- 25 (14) Arthritis Foundation.
- 26 (15) Lupus Foundation of Pennsylvania.
- 27 (16) National Multiple Sclerosis Society.
- 28 (17) American Pain Society.
- 29 (18) American Pain Foundation.
- 30 (19) Pennsylvania Homecare Association.

1 (20) Pennsylvania Chiropractic Association and the
2 Chiropractic Fellowship of Pennsylvania.

3 (21) Association for Professional Acupuncture.

4 (22) Pennsylvania Pain Coalition.

5 (23) The Pennsylvania rehabilitation industry;
6 and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That two members of the committee be chosen by the
8 coordinated designation of the biotechnology and pharmaceutical
9 industries; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force present to the General
11 Assembly a report evaluating the barriers to good pain care in
12 this Commonwealth, making suggestions for actions to improve
13 pain care within this Commonwealth; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force study the feasibility of
15 developing and implementing a comprehensive Statewide public
16 education program on pain management to:

17 (1) promote public awareness regarding proper pain
18 management;

19 (2) promote understanding of the importance of early
20 diagnosis and proper treatment and management;

21 (3) improve the delivery of appropriate information,
22 programs, services and access to the most effective
23 treatments for pain; and

24 (4) encourage research into the nature, cause and
25 treatment of pain;

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force, in accomplishing its
28 missions, take into account guidelines that have been
29 promulgated by nationally recognized organizations that deal
30 with pain; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force recommend an appropriate
2 means of disseminating information to the professional community
3 and the general public; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force recommend sources of funds
5 to carry out its recommendations; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Pain Task Force report its findings
7 directly to the General Assembly no later than one year after
8 the adoption of this resolution.