

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 42 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, FONTANA, ERICKSON, KASUNIC, BOSCOLA,
COSTA, ARGALL, FERLO AND KITCHEN, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 the scope and quality of citizenship education in this
3 Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, In 2006, a McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum survey
5 observed that Americans are more aware of their favorite
6 television show than what is happening in the nation; and

7 WHEREAS, The number of young people voting and the knowledge
8 of their civil rights is rapidly declining every year; and

9 WHEREAS, This is a concern for many states, including this
10 Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth needs to have a better
12 understanding of the civic education that our students are
13 receiving in school; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth needs to enhance young people's
15 knowledge of civics by engaging them in citizenship education
16 starting in elementary schools; and

17 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth needs to promote civic education
18 and engagement in civic activities in public, private and

1 parochial schools as provided under section 1605 of the Public
2 School Code of 1949; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and
4 Finance Committee to conduct a study on the scope and quality of
5 citizenship education in this Commonwealth; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
7 study at least all of the following:

8 (1) The number of young people that vote in this
9 Commonwealth.

10 (2) The types of civic education classes available in
11 schools and when they are available.

12 (3) If there is a need for civic education classes
13 earlier in public, private and parochial schools' curricula.

14 (4) If real life civics experiences are available in
15 private, public and parochial schools.

16 (5) If public awareness of representative democracy is
17 needed;

18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
20 study the scope and quality of citizenship education, gathering
21 information from public, private and parochial schools,
22 colleges, teachers and the Department of Education; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
25 provide the Senate with its funding and recommendations on how
26 this Commonwealth can increase citizenship education; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
29 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later
30 than one year after the adoption of this resolution.