

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 53

Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY DAY, PARKER, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BRIGGS, BROOKS, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, D. COSTA, M. DALEY, DAVIS, DEAN, DEASY, DERMODY, EMRICK, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GERGELY, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HANNA, HARHAI, HARHART, HARKINS, HARPER, J. HARRIS, HELM, KAUFFMAN, KAVULICH, F. KELLER, KINSEY, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KULA, LONGIETTI, MATZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOLCHANY, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PYLE, REGAN, ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SACCONI, SANTARSIERO, STEPHENS, SWANGER, TOEPEL, VEREB, WATERS, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, MCCARTER, REESE AND PEIFER, JANUARY 30, 2013

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a select committee to investigate and make
2 recommendations concerning safety and security in public and
3 nonpublic schools and institutions of higher education in
4 this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, One of a society's most important responsibilities
6 is the education of its citizens; and

7 WHEREAS, The citizens of this Commonwealth are educated
8 through a system of public and nonpublic schools and
9 institutions of higher education; and

10 WHEREAS, In order for students to learn, they must be
11 educated in a safe and secure environment; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1995, the General Assembly created the Office of
13 Safe Schools within the Department of Education to coordinate
14 antiviolence efforts between schools and the community; to

1 collect and disseminate information and strategies to assist in  
2 the development of programs to impact school violence; to  
3 provide training to schools, parents, law enforcement and the  
4 community to prevent school violence; and to conduct other  
5 efforts aimed at promoting school safety; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2000, the General Assembly created the position  
7 of safe schools advocate in school districts of the first class  
8 to monitor the school district's compliance with the  
9 Commonwealth's school safety laws, to receive inquiries from and  
10 provide assistance to victims of acts of violence on school  
11 property and to conduct other efforts aimed at promoting school  
12 safety in school districts of the first class; and

13 WHEREAS, It is important to ensure that the public and  
14 nonpublic schools and institutions of higher education in this  
15 Commonwealth, in conjunction with State and local law  
16 enforcement agencies, are taking reasonable actions toward  
17 making their facilities safe and secure for students, employees  
18 and visitors; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a  
20 select committee to investigate, review and make recommendations  
21 regarding:

22 (1) current security policies and procedures in public  
23 and nonpublic schools and institutions of higher education in  
24 this Commonwealth and ways in which school policies and  
25 procedures could be improved;

26 (2) current State laws and regulations related to school  
27 safety and security and ways in which State laws and  
28 regulations could be strengthened, including a review of laws  
29 and regulations related to school safety and security in  
30 effect in other states;

1 (3) early detection of potentially violent perpetrators,  
2 including strategies that may be used by education, health  
3 and other professionals to identify family, community and  
4 environmental factors that may lead to potentially violent  
5 behaviors; and

6 (4) any potential budgetary, revenue and governance  
7 reforms necessary to address these matters;  
8 and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
10 appoint, within 15 days of passage of this resolution, in  
11 consultation with the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House  
12 of Representatives, the following members of the House of  
13 Representatives to the select committee, with one member from  
14 each standing committee being appointed from the majority party  
15 and one member from each standing committee being appointed from  
16 the minority party:

17 (1) two members from the Education Committee;

18 (2) two members from the Health Committee;

19 (3) two members from the Local Government Committee;

20 (4) two members from the Children and Youth Committee;

21 (5) two members from the Judiciary Committee;

22 (6) two members from the Veterans Affairs and Emergency

23 Preparedness Committee; and

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24 (7) ~~one~~ TWO at-large ~~member who~~ MEMBERS FROM THE  
25 MAJORITY PARTY, ONE OF WHOM shall act as chairperson of the  
26 select committee; AND

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27 (8) ONE AT-LARGE MEMBER FROM THE MINORITY PARTY WHO  
28 SHALL ACT AS VICE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE;

29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the select committee hold hearings, take

1 testimony and make its investigation at the places it deems  
2 necessary in this Commonwealth; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the select committee be empowered to call  
4 witnesses under the hand and seal of the chairperson and  
5 instruct any person to appear before it to answer questions  
6 touching matters properly being inquired into by the committee  
7 and to produce books, papers, records, accounts, reports and  
8 documents as the committee deems necessary; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That, in addition to other witnesses the select  
10 committee may call, the Office of Safe Schools in the Department  
11 of Education and the safe schools advocate in school districts  
12 of the first class cooperate with the select committee by  
13 providing testimony and producing documents and other  
14 information requested by the select committee; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Speaker and the Majority Leader of the  
16 House of Representatives provide staffing and assistance to the  
17 select committee, including obtaining relevant data and other  
18 research; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the ordinary and reasonable expenses incurred  
20 by the select committee be paid from accounts under the control  
21 of the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives; and be it  
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That the select committee submit a report of its  
24 findings together with its recommendations for any appropriate  
25 legislation or other action to the House of Representatives not  
26 later than September 30, 2013.