
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 198 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY HANNA, MOLCHANY, ROZZI, SAMUELSON, DERMODY,
FABRIZIO, MARKOSEK, RAVENSTAHL, D. COSTA, V. BROWN, KORTZ,
PASHINSKI, ROEBUCK, YOUNGBLOOD, HARHAI, BROWNLEE, COHEN,
DeLUCA, DEASY, KAVULICH, KULA, PARKER AND GOODMAN,
APRIL 2, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 2, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the members of the Governor's Advisory Council on
2 Privatization and Innovation to sign an Integrity and
3 Accountability Pledge so as to ensure that all
4 recommendations that are made are in the best interests of
5 the citizens of this Commonwealth.

6 WHEREAS, America was founded as a democracy representative of
7 the interests and the needs of the people; and

8 WHEREAS, The purpose of government is to serve the best
9 interests of those it represents; and

10 WHEREAS, Public service is a privilege that requires
11 adherence to core values, including accountability, integrity
12 and reliability; and

13 WHEREAS, The privatization of functions served by State
14 government is likely to result in substantial financial benefits
15 to purchasers of government assets and recipients of the award
16 of privatization contracts; and

17 WHEREAS, Those engaged in public service in this
18 Commonwealth, whether appointed, elected or employed, are

1 mandated to serve the public trust; and

2 WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article IV of the Constitution of
3 Pennsylvania grants the Governor supreme executive power and
4 compels the Governor to ensure that all laws are executed in
5 good faith; and

6 WHEREAS, The General Assembly has made many efforts to ensure
7 the honesty and integrity of the public sector, including its
8 employees and elected and appointed officials; and

9 WHEREAS, The Public Official and Employee Ethics Act, Chapter
10 11 of Title 65 (Public Officers) of the Pennsylvania
11 Consolidated Statutes, states, "The Legislature hereby declares
12 that public office is a public trust and that any effort to
13 realize personal financial gain through public office other than
14 compensation provided by law is a violation of that trust"; and

15 WHEREAS, Section 1104 of Title 65 of the Pennsylvania
16 Consolidated Statutes requires public officials to file a
17 financial interest statement with the State Ethics Commission,
18 and both public officials and public employees to submit a
19 financial interest statement with the institution, agency or
20 bureau to which they are appointed or elected, or by which they
21 are employed; and

22 WHEREAS, The act of July 10, 1968 (P.L.316, No.154), known as
23 the Legislative Code of Ethics, prohibits any member of the
24 General Assembly from participating in any State action that
25 could benefit him or her, or his or her family; and

26 WHEREAS, The act of December 17, 1981 (P.L.435, No.135),
27 known as the Race Horse Industry Reform Act, prohibits public
28 employees, public officers and party officers from engaging in
29 certain acts that could result in a conflict of interest; and

30 WHEREAS, The act of July 5, 2004 (P.L.572, No.71), known as

1 the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, requires
2 members of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board to recuse
3 themselves from any actions that may provide a benefit to
4 themselves or their families; and

5 WHEREAS, Individuals appointed to councils and boards under
6 the jurisdiction of the Governor should be held to the same
7 level of scrutiny as those hired and elected to serve the public
8 interest; and

9 WHEREAS, Appointees to the Governor's Advisory Council on
10 Privatization and Innovation should sign an Accountability and
11 Integrity Pledge, which reads:

12 "I, as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on
13 Privatization and Innovation, do hereby pledge that neither
14 myself, my spouse, my parent, my brother, my sister, or child
15 nor any business in which I, my spouse, my parent, my
16 brother, my sister or my child is associated with, will
17 benefit financially, in any manner whatsoever, from the
18 actions taken by the council of a period of not less than
19 five years after the enactment of any recommendation";

20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the members of the Pennsylvania General
22 Assembly urge the Governor to require that all current and
23 future members of the Governor's Advisory Council on
24 Privatization and Innovation sign an Accountability and
25 Integrity Pledge; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That in the absence of the Governor's acting under
27 this resolution, all current and future members of the
28 Governor's Advisory Council on Privatization and Innovation
29 nevertheless voluntarily sign an Accountability and Integrity
30 Pledge.