
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 589 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, KORTZ, WHEATLEY, LONGIETTI, HELM,
D. COSTA, DAVIS, MURT, MASSER, PARKER, GINGRICH, THOMAS,
COHEN, ROCK AND MAHONEY, DECEMBER 17, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, DECEMBER 17, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study youth
2 leadership and community involvement and to establish an
3 advisory committee to conduct a comprehensive survey of
4 existing youth development and leadership programs in this
5 Commonwealth; identify ways in which these programs currently
6 collaborate with and involve youth in community services and
7 activities; and develop recommendations for successful
8 collaborations between youth-serving organizations and local
9 communities.

10 WHEREAS, According to 2010 Census data, there are more than
11 1.7 million youth in Pennsylvania between 10 and 19 years of
12 age; and

13 WHEREAS, In order to prepare for opportunities to partner and
14 work with adults, promote positive life-skills learning and
15 enhance the successful transition to adulthood, youth in this
16 Commonwealth need to develop and augment leadership skills; and

17 WHEREAS, Youth leadership is defined as processes designed to
18 give youth the ability to guide or direct others on a course of
19 action, influence their behavior and show the way by going in
20 advance, the ability to analyze one's own strengths and
21 weaknesses, set personal and vocational goals and have the self-

1 esteem to fulfill their goals; and

2 WHEREAS, The importance of leadership skills such as
3 teamwork, goal-setting, problem-solving, group dynamics,
4 negotiation and conflict resolution and making persuasive
5 presentations are essential in preparing youth for successful
6 futures and for ensuring continued community vitality; and

7 WHEREAS, Research demonstrates that participation in youth
8 leadership development activities correlates with increased
9 self-efficacy and self-determination skills and a successful
10 transition to adulthood; and

11 WHEREAS, Numerous nonprofit and civic organizations, such as
12 the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and 4-H,
13 serve youth in this Commonwealth by offering programs intended
14 to promote leadership and community service as well as providing
15 opportunities for positive social interaction; and

16 WHEREAS, These youth leadership programs often operate
17 without direct connections and involvement with local
18 communities and community leaders; and

19 WHEREAS, The future success of communities in this
20 Commonwealth depends upon the ability to pass the mantle of
21 leadership to the next generation; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a need to develop and implement
23 collaborations between local communities and youth leadership
24 organizations; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
26 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee
27 of 25 members consisting of representatives of youth development
28 and leadership organizations, community organizations and local
29 governments; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working

1 with the advisory committee, conduct a comprehensive survey of
2 existing youth development and leadership programs in this
3 Commonwealth, identify ways in which these programs currently
4 collaborate with and involve youth in community services and
5 activities and develop recommendations for successful
6 collaborations between youth-serving organizations and local
7 communities; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the final report contain findings of fact,
9 recommendations for action and any other information as deemed
10 necessary by the advisory committee; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
12 report to the House of Representatives not later than 12 months
13 from the date of adoption of this resolution.