

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 659 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE, MACKENZIE, DIGIROLAMO, BOBACK, V. BROWN, SCHLOSSBERG, MASSER, MILLARD, CORBIN, GROVE, MILNE, TOEPEL, MENTZER, PICKETT, MURT, THOMAS, BENNINGHOFF, GRELL, GIBBONS, MARSICO, LAWRENCE, HACKETT, GINGRICH AND FRANKEL, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, APRIL 1, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing the task force on opioid prescription drug
2 proliferation and its impact on heroin use in this
3 Commonwealth; and creating an advisory committee.

4 WHEREAS, The United States makes up 4.5% of the world's
5 population; and

6 WHEREAS, The United States consumes 80% of the opioid
7 prescription drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, The human suffering associated with addiction for
9 affected families has now reached epidemic proportions; and

10 WHEREAS, Criminal court dockets are crowded with people who
11 are living with an addiction to prescription drugs; and

12 WHEREAS, The death toll is surging from opioid prescription
13 drug overdoses; and

14 WHEREAS, Those who become addicted to prescription drugs,
15 left untreated, tend to shift to abusing heroin, and this has
16 resulted in a huge increase in heroin use across this
17 Commonwealth; and

1 WHEREAS, The proliferation of opioid prescription drug abuse
2 has become a crisis; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
4 State Government Commission to establish a task force on opioid
5 prescription drug proliferation; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the task force consist of four members
7 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, two
8 appointed in consultation with the Majority Leader and two
9 appointed in consultation with the Minority Leader; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission create
12 an advisory committee, including, but not limited to, the
13 following individuals:

14 (1) A representative recommended by the Department of
15 Drug and Alcohol Programs.

16 (2) A representative recommended by the Department of
17 Public Welfare.

18 (3) A representative recommended by the Insurance
19 Department.

20 (4) A physician recommended by the Department of Health.

21 (5) A representative recommended by the State Board of
22 Pharmacy.

23 (6) A representative recommended by the Attorney
24 General.

25 (7) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
26 Fraternal Order of Police.

27 (8) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
28 Athletic Oversight Committee.

29 (9) Two physicians recommended by the Pennsylvania
30 Medical Society, one of whom holds membership in the American

1 Society of Addiction Medicine and the other who is a
2 physician with expertise in chronic pain management and
3 treatment.

4 (10) A physician who is a member of the Pennsylvania
5 Psychiatric Society specializing in addiction psychiatry.

6 (11) A representative recommended by the Drug and
7 Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania.

8 (12) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
9 Recovery Organizations Alliance.

10 (13) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
11 Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence.

12 (14) A representative recommended by a manufacturer of
13 opioid drugs.

14 (15) A wholesale distributor representative recommended
15 by the Healthcare Distribution Management Association.

16 (16) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
17 District Attorneys Association.

18 (17) The Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police or
19 his designee.

20 (18) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
21 Coroners Association.

22 (19) A representative of chronic pain patients
23 recommended by a physician with expertise in chronic pain
24 management.

25 (20) A representative of pharmacies recommended by the
26 Pennsylvania Association of Chain Drug Stores.

27 (21) A representative of pharmacists recommended by the
28 Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association.

29 (22) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
30 State Nurses Association.

1 (23) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
2 Osteopathic Medical Association. <--

3 (24) A REPRESENTATIVE RECOMMENDED BY THE AMERICAN CANCER
4 SOCIETY.

5 (25) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NATIONAL NONPROFIT WITH THE
6 MISSION OF DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG
7 DIVERSION.

8 (26) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NATIONAL NONPROFIT WITH THE
9 MISSION TO CONNECT, INFORM AND EDUCATE THOSE LIVING WITH
10 PAIN.

11 (27) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HEALTH SYSTEM PHARMACY
12 RECOMMENDED BY THE HOSPITAL AND HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF
13 PENNSYLVANIA.

14 (28) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A RECOVERY SUPPORT INITIATIVE
15 RECOMMENDED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA RECOVERY ORGANIZATION-
16 ACHIEVING COMMUNITY TOGETHER;

17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, THAT AS A FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS, THE JOINT STATE <--
19 GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BE DIRECTED TO RECOMMEND GUIDELINES FOR
20 PRESCRIBERS WHICH SHALL BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE
21 FORMATION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND BE IT FURTHER

22 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee examine existing laws
23 relative to the prescribing and dispensing of prescription
24 opioid drugs; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee gather facts from
26 existing public hearings that have been held by legislative
27 committees; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee accept and review any
29 briefs or comments submitted by any stakeholders; and be it
30 further

1 RESOLVED, That parents, siblings or family members who have
2 lost loved ones are welcome to submit their testimony for the
3 record; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the task force and advisory committee make a
5 report to the General Assembly with suggested changes to current
6 State laws and regulations that will provide for safer and more
7 effective pain management practices, ensure that pain management
8 practitioners are sufficiently trained in identifying addiction
9 and referring addicted patients to appropriate care and help
10 combat the proliferation of misuse and abuse of opioid
11 prescription drugs within one year of the adoption of this
12 resolution.