
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 735 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY CUTLER, SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS, MUSTIO, O'NEILL,
HEFFLEY, DAVIS, MILLARD, PICKETT, YOUNGBLOOD, HARHART,
TOEPEL, O'BRIEN, GIBBONS, SWANGER, ROCK, READSHAW, GODSHALL,
BAKER, HICKERNELL, PARKER, GRELL, MCNEILL, MURT, WATSON,
DeLUCA, CLYMER, GINGRICH, COHEN AND DENLINGER, MARCH 25, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 25, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the
2 issue of physician shortages, to establish an advisory
3 committee to conduct a comprehensive study of physician
4 shortages, to propose strategies for eliminating physician
5 shortages, and to report to the House of Representatives with
6 its findings and recommendations.

7 WHEREAS, Research studies have found that physician shortages
8 have reached alarming proportions in the United States and
9 Pennsylvania in particular; and

10 WHEREAS, According to a 2012 Physicians Foundation survey
11 report nearly half the nation's 830,000 physicians are 50 years
12 of age or older and are seeing fewer patients than they did four
13 years ago; and

14 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, 52% of physicians are more than 50
15 years of age and less than 10% are under 35 years of age,
16 according to a report released by the Pennsylvania Department of
17 Health in 2010; and

18 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is experiencing physician shortages for

1 a litany of reasons; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the Department of Health in 2010, 41%
3 of physicians who anticipated leaving direct patient care in
4 Pennsylvania within five years cited retirement as the reason;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, As the baby boomers grow older, they are creating a
7 greater need for physicians; and

8 WHEREAS, Medical school debts, which often average a quarter
9 of a million dollars, also contribute to physician shortages;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Changing health care landscapes are expected to
12 further increase the need for physicians by adding newly insured
13 Pennsylvanians to this Commonwealth's health care system;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
16 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee
17 of approximately 25 members consisting of public officials and
18 experts on the issue of physician shortages and its impact; and
19 be if further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
21 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and
22 comprehensive analysis of physician shortage and its impacts by
23 region and specialty, at a minimum; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
25 with the advisory committee, study recent reports on the issue
26 of physician shortages, review other states' proposals to
27 address physician shortages and develop recommendations best
28 suited for Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations
30 to implement necessary changes in State statutes and practices,

1 policies and procedures relating to physician shortages; and be
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
4 report to the House of Representatives with its findings and
5 recommendations not later than one year after the adoption of
6 this resolution.