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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 6

Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, TOMLINSON, TEPLITZ, FONTANA, SCHWANK,  
PILEGGI, WASHINGTON, MENSCH, ARGALL, RAFFERTY, FARNESE,  
BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, BREWSTER, MCILHINNEY, WOZNIAK,  
STACK, COSTA, VULAKOVICH AND D. WHITE, JANUARY 18, 2013

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 18, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the  
2 issue of violence prevention, to establish an advisory  
3 committee to conduct a thorough and comprehensive analysis of  
4 the underlying causes of violent crime, including mass  
5 shootings, and to report to the Senate with its findings and  
6 recommendations.

7 WHEREAS, The terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School  
8 in Connecticut and other mass shootings in recent years require  
9 additional review of the underlying causes of violent crime,  
10 including mass shootings, in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the  
11 nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Violent crime affects all Pennsylvanians; and

13 WHEREAS, There are common themes in many of these violent  
14 events which require us to examine our laws and procedures  
15 relating to violent crime; and

16 WHEREAS, These common themes include mental illness and  
17 mental health treatment, keeping firearms out of the hands of  
18 criminals and the mentally ill, school security, bullying, gang-  
19 related activity, educational issues and cultural influences,

1 including violent video games; and

2 WHEREAS, In recent sessions, members of the General Assembly  
3 have recognized the need to address the issue of violent crime  
4 and have introduced numerous bills with that goal in mind; and

5 WHEREAS, The Senate Judiciary Committee received  
6 recommendations relating to dealing with violent crime at  
7 hearings held across this Commonwealth; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
9 Commission to establish an advisory committee of approximately  
10 25 members consisting of public officials and experts on the  
11 issue of violent crime, which is balanced so that it encompasses  
12 a wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working  
14 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and  
15 comprehensive analysis of violent crime, mass shootings, the  
16 issues set forth in this resolution and other related issues as  
17 determined by the commission; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working  
19 with the advisory committee, study the proposals made to the  
20 Senate Judiciary Committee, review other proposals, including  
21 best practices that address the issue of violent crime, and,  
22 based on this study, develop recommendations best suited for  
23 Pennsylvania; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission  
25 establish a process by which interested members of the public  
26 can make suggestions and have input; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations  
28 to change mental health laws and procedures, to implement  
29 necessary changes in State statutes and practices, policies and  
30 procedures relating to violent crime, including measures to make

1 our schools safer, and to develop awareness, education and other  
2 strategies to address issues relating to violent crime; and be  
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
5 report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations not  
6 later than December 31, 2013.