
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 60 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, YUDICHAK, GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, BREWSTER,
ARGALL, ERICKSON, BAKER, VOGEL, BROWNE, WHITE AND COSTA,
MARCH 20, 2013

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, MARCH 20, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 the issue of the number of physicians in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The population of Pennsylvania, which is the third
4 oldest in the United States, continues to age; and

5 WHEREAS, Older individuals utilize more health care
6 resources; and

7 WHEREAS, The age of the physician population in Pennsylvania
8 continues to get older, with the average at 49 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, Health system reform will increase the need for
10 physician services in Pennsylvania as the uninsured obtain
11 health insurance and seek a source of care; and

12 WHEREAS, The growth and aging of the national population will
13 contribute to a 22% increase in demand for physician services
14 between 2005 and 2020; and

15 WHEREAS, The American Association of Medical Colleges
16 predicts that by 2025, there will be a projected shortage of
17 124,000 physicians; and

1 WHEREAS, Physician shortages are likely to be manifested in a
2 number of ways, which includes longer waiting times for
3 appointments, increased travel distances to get care, shorter
4 visit times with physicians, expanded use of nonphysicians for
5 care and higher prices; and

6 WHEREAS, If shortages are extensive, in some cases, it will
7 lead to a loss of access altogether; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania physician supply may not be able to
9 meet the needs of Pennsylvania's aging population, especially in
10 those counties with certain patient and physician demographics;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, It has been demonstrated that patient access is
13 impacted by an individual having a usual source of care that
14 includes a primary care physician; and

15 WHEREAS, Patients that have a usual source of care generally
16 are healthier; and

17 WHEREAS, It has been shown that Pennsylvania has a smaller
18 percentage of primary care physicians among its physician
19 population than the United States average; and

20 WHEREAS, It is imperative for the Commonwealth to have
21 policies in place to attract physicians to this Commonwealth, in
22 particular, primary care physicians; and

23 WHEREAS, The development of current physician manpower data
24 and future projections is important to the health of
25 Pennsylvania citizens and this Commonwealth as a whole; and

26 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania government has not conducted a
27 comprehensive analysis of physician manpower in this
28 Commonwealth; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and
30 Finance Committee to research current studies and literature on

1 the scope and extent of shortages in physician supply, to
2 examine factors contributing to the problem and to assess
3 current and projected physician staffing needs in Pennsylvania;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the committee identify and define reforms,
6 initiatives, strategies and other administrative and legislative
7 actions being taken by both public and private agencies at the
8 national level and in other states to increase the number of
9 physicians in the work force and the results to date of these
10 actions; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the committee document and examine the
12 response to the physician shortage by both public and private
13 agencies in Pennsylvania and assess actions taken to date; and
14 be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings and
16 recommendations to the Senate no later than November 30, 2013.