
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 62 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY McILHINNEY, TEPLITZ, TOMLINSON, STACK, GREENLEAF,
WASHINGTON, ERICKSON, SCHWANK, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, WAUGH,
WARD, BROWNE, BREWSTER, SOLOBAY AND TARTAGLIONE,
MARCH 20, 2013

REFERRED TO AGING AND YOUTH, MARCH 20, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study
2 new approaches to family work support programs.

3 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest to pursue the common
4 good whereby all families in this Commonwealth have improved
5 access to economic and educational opportunities that help
6 families achieve self-sufficiency and financial security while
7 reducing the number of families living in poverty; and

8 WHEREAS, More and more middle-class families are living
9 paycheck to paycheck, especially in these very difficult
10 economic times; and

11 WHEREAS, Nearly one in five children in Pennsylvania live in
12 poverty, which increased in this Commonwealth from 11.6% to
13 13.4% in 2010; and

14 WHEREAS, More states are recognizing that reducing poverty is
15 a critical economic development issue which requires strategic,
16 integrated and comprehensive approaches that create
17 opportunities for families to achieve economic success,

1 including creating quality jobs, providing work supports,
2 promoting greater collaboration with the private sector and
3 implementing targeted tax policies; and

4 WHEREAS, An assessment of current State policies and
5 practices within the Department of Public Welfare, the
6 Department of Education, the Department of Health, the
7 Department of Revenue, the Department of Labor and Industry and
8 the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency may promote economic
9 opportunity and poverty reduction by revealing inconsistencies
10 across agencies which determine eligibility for individuals and
11 families to move up the economic ladder; and

12 WHEREAS, An examination of evidence-based solutions utilized
13 in other states may reveal significant efforts to reduce poverty
14 as well as mitigate the "cliff effect"; and

15 WHEREAS, Working parents who receive a minor increase in
16 income making them ineligible for various programs that allow
17 them to work, such as child-care assistance, transportation,
18 food stamps and free and reduced school lunches, face the
19 "cliff" and disincentives for achieving self-sufficiency;
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
22 assess current State practices that promote economic opportunity
23 and poverty reduction and develop a strategic, integrated and
24 comprehensive plan to mitigate the "cliff effect"; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That in its review the committee consult with the
27 Department of Public Welfare, the Department of Education, the
28 Department of Health, the Department of Revenue, the Department
29 of Labor and Industry and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance
30 Agency; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That in its review the committee consult with
2 recipients, advocates and providers with experience in job
3 support and welfare-to-work programs; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the committee evaluate and make
5 recommendations regarding:

6 (1) Identifying best policies and practices that build
7 family assets and financial stability.

8 (2) Making work pay through the use of fair and
9 sustainable targeted tax policies.

10 (3) Expanding the work force with quality jobs that meet
11 private sector needs.

12 (4) Assessing work support issues such as child care,
13 transportation, nutrition and housing needs of families.

14 (5) Creating a coordinated effort among State agencies
15 to develop policies on education, health care, housing,
16 income, child care, nutrition and transportation that are
17 consistent and create incentives for self-sufficiency.

18 (6) Identifying those policies and regulations that
19 conflict with the goal of self-sufficiency;

20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the committee make a report with
22 recommendations to the Senate within one year of the adoption of
23 this resolution.