
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 735 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY GINGRICH, THOMAS, COHEN, GREINER, D. COSTA, JAMES,
DEAN, ROTHMAN, ENGLISH, BAKER, MURT, WARD, KILLION, CORBIN,
HARHART, BOBACK, STURLA, SCHLOSSBERG, PICKETT, PAYNE,
READSHAW, DONATUCCI, KOTIK, MILNE, FARRY, CUTLER, DAVIS,
MARSICO, V. BROWN AND GERGELY, MARCH 15, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 15, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on the Protection from Abuse Act and publish a report
3 of its findings, including any recommended legislative and
4 policy changes.

5 WHEREAS, With the passage of the first Protection From Abuse
6 Act in 1976, Pennsylvania became the second state in the United
7 States to enact legislation for the specific purpose of
8 protecting victims of domestic abuse; and

9 WHEREAS, Since that time, the Protection from Abuse Act has
10 provided crucial and even lifesaving protections to thousands of
11 victims of abuse; and

12 WHEREAS, In order for a law's stated purposes to be
13 accomplished, legislation must be monitored by and on behalf of
14 those whose lives it affects; and

15 WHEREAS, The Protection from Abuse Act has undergone
16 substantial revision in the years since its initial passage; and

17 WHEREAS, Despite the continual improvement of the act, the

1 real-world experiences of advocates, attorneys, law enforcement
2 officers, judges, victims and family members demonstrate that
3 further improvement in the law or its application may be
4 possible and desirable; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is ever mindful of the need to
6 balance precautions for the physical safety of accusers against
7 the constitutional rights of defendants; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
9 undertake a study of the current Protection from Abuse Act with
10 an emphasis on identifying any "blind spots" or "gaps" in the
11 law or in how it is applied which, if corrected, may reduce
12 incidences of revictimization or death while still striking an
13 appropriate balance of rights; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations
15 for changes to statutes, practices, policies, programs and
16 procedures relating to the Protection from Abuse Act; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
19 report to the House of Representatives with its findings and
20 recommendations no later than nine months from the adoption of
21 this resolution.