
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 265 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, APRIL 19, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 19, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the requirements and implications of
3 performing social impact assessments for each piece of
4 legislation that pertains to health care for adults and
5 children, felony crimes, public school finance and the change
6 in structure or mission of institutions of higher education
7 or the creation of institutions of higher education.

8 WHEREAS, All legislation that will have a fiscal impact on
9 the Commonwealth receives a fiscal note explaining the revenue
10 that will be raised or lost as a result of the legislation; and

11 WHEREAS, The effects of legislation often times goes far
12 beyond that of just fiscal impacts, having cultural and
13 socioeconomic impacts as well; and

14 WHEREAS, A similar note as it pertains to those cultural and
15 socioeconomic impacts are never attached to such legislation,
16 despite the effects legislation may have on individuals,
17 families, communities, nonprofits and for-profit entities; and

18 WHEREAS, It is necessary to have a full understanding of what
19 the fiscal, cultural and socioeconomic impacts of legislation
20 will mean for the people of this Commonwealth prior to its
21 approval; and

1 WHEREAS, A social impact assessment will provide that
2 understanding; and

3 WHEREAS, It is recognized by members of the General Assembly
4 that legislation, especially as it pertains to health care,
5 felony crimes and education, needs to be thoroughly examined
6 before it can receive a vote; and

7 WHEREAS, Such an assessment would provide protection against
8 the whims of partisan legislation; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
10 conduct a study of how the Commonwealth would perform social
11 impact assessments, what agency would be best suited to perform
12 them, what information would be needed to perform them, how they
13 may affect the legislative process and what they could mean for
14 the cultural and socioeconomic well-being of this Commonwealth;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
17 provide recommendations necessary or desirable to establish a
18 process for performing social impact assessments; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
21 report to the House of Representatives the result of the study
22 and recommendations regarding social impact assessments and file
23 the report with the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
24 no later than 180 days after the adoption of this resolution.