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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 346 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY PASHINSKI, DRISCOLL, FREEMAN, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG,  
RABB, CAUSER, McNEILL, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, MILLARD,  
KINSEY, O'BRIEN, DeLUCA, DAWKINS, MOUL, FRANKEL AND KORTZ,  
MAY 22, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 22, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study on prescription drug pricing and issue a report.

3 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth have experienced  
4 increasingly costly out-of-pocket expenses for prescription  
5 drugs; and

6 WHEREAS, Rising costs for prescription drugs too frequently  
7 result in a patient's inability to pay for prescriptions and  
8 subsequently not filling their prescription, cutting pills in  
9 half or skipping doses; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite the needed financial assistance offered by  
11 drug manufacturers to help patients pay for prescription drugs,  
12 many patients cannot afford the mounting costs of prescriptions;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must examine ways to create  
15 fairness and address high costs for patients; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
17 State Government Commission to conduct a study on prescription

1 drug pricing and issue a report to the General Assembly; and be  
2 it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission seek  
4 input and information as appropriate from the following:

5 (1) The Insurance Department.

6 (2) The Department of Aging.

7 (3) The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

8 (4) The Department of Health.

9 (5) The Department of Human Services.

10 (6) Other persons that are knowledgeable of the issues  
11 surrounding consumer protection, health care, health care  
12 costs and health insurance, including individuals who  
13 represent pharmacies, pharmacy benefit managers, patient  
14 advocacy groups, pharmaceutical manufacturers, health  
15 insurers or licensed health care providers;

16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government  
18 Commission contain findings and recommendations and include any  
19 proposed legislation regarding the following:

20 (1) How prices are determined for prescription drugs.

21 (2) The process and amount of money used for the  
22 development and marketing of prescription drugs.

23 (3) Business factors that have an impact on the cost of  
24 prescription drugs.

25 (4) Efforts to make prescription drugs more affordable.

26 (5) Factors contributing to high out-of-pocket  
27 prescription drug costs to patients.

28 (6) Patient treatment adherence and access to  
29 prescription drugs.

30 (7) Expensive medical interventions or hospitalizations

1 that may occur as a result of a patient's inability to afford  
2 and maintain access to prescription drugs.

3 (8) Manufacturer costs for research and development,  
4 clinical trials, regulatory costs, cost of materials,  
5 manufacturing and administration.

6 (9) Manufacturer annual prices for prescription drugs to  
7 purchasers inside and outside of the United States.

8 (10) Profit margins and projected profit margins of drug  
9 manufacturers.

10 (11) Financial assistance offered by drug manufacturers.

11 (12) Further oversight, transparency and clarity  
12 concerning the determination of prescription drug pricing.

13 (13) Negotiation of prescription drug costs between  
14 manufacturers and the Pennsylvania medical assistance  
15 program;

16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
18 report of its findings and recommendations to the General  
19 Assembly within one year of the adoption of this resolution.