
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 597 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BOBACK, DAVIS, DEAN, DRISCOLL, KINSEY,
LONGIETTI, RABB, SCHWEYER, THOMAS, WARD, WHEELAND, RYAN AND
DONATUCCI, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the extent to which rape kits remain
3 unprocessed in this Commonwealth and identify the reasons
4 that the kits remain untested.

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Department of Health recently
6 reported that more than 3,000 rape kits are awaiting testing at
7 law enforcement agencies and crime labs in this Commonwealth,
8 including more than 1,800 rape kits that have been waiting 12
9 months or longer to be tested; and

10 WHEREAS, Act 27 of 2015 provided a methodology for local law
11 enforcement agencies to count the backlog of rape kits and
12 established a three-year time frame to eliminate this backlog;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Certain legal requirements imposed by Act 27 of
15 2015, including that victims provide written consent prior to
16 rape kits being tested, that rape kits be picked up by a local
17 law enforcement agency within 72 hours of being collected and
18 that victims receive notification when a kit has been tested, do

1 not appear to be uniformly followed by all local law enforcement
2 agencies within this Commonwealth; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies show that rapists tend to be serial
4 criminals, thus increasing the urgency that rape kits be
5 processed in a timely manner so the DNA information can be
6 promptly entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's DNA
7 database; and

8 WHEREAS, The Office of the Auditor General recently released
9 an audit identifying many of these and other problems and making
10 recommendations to address these issues; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
12 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of
13 the extent to which rape kits remain unprocessed in this
14 Commonwealth and identify the reasons that the kits remain
15 untested; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
17 identify all possible sources of funding, including all
18 available Federal funding, that could be used to expedite the
19 processing of untested rape kits; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
21 assess the likelihood that local law enforcement agencies and
22 crime labs in this Commonwealth will be able to meet the
23 deadlines established in Act 27 of 2015 for eliminating the
24 backlog of untested rape kits; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
26 assess compliance with the victim consent, victim notification,
27 reporting and other requirements established by Act 27 of 2015
28 with regard to the processing of rape kits; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
30 report its findings to the General Assembly within 180 days of

1 the adoption of this resolution.