

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 798 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, MARSICO, BARBIN, YOUNGBLOOD,
CALTAGIRONE, FRANKEL, LONGIETTI, MURT, NEILSON, KULIK,
SCHLOSSBERG, J. McNEILL, D. MILLER, STEPHENS, B. MILLER,
KAUFER, MENTZER AND KIRKLAND, APRIL 6, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 6, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on school safety programs of the 500 school districts,
3 including charter schools, in this Commonwealth and to issue
4 a report making recommendations and suggesting funding
5 resources for a Statewide school security program.

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth takes the health, safety and
7 welfare of students in Pennsylvania with utmost seriousness; and

8 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth operates 500 public school
9 districts with 1.74 million students; and

10 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth operates 155 brick and mortar
11 charter schools and 20 cyber charter schools; and

12 WHEREAS, In both the fall semester of 2016 and all of 2017,
13 Pennsylvania had the second highest number of school threats
14 nationally, which is a 15% increase for that time frame; and

15 WHEREAS, Social media has a clear impact on recent school
16 threats, with 53% of school threats nationwide coming from
17 social media sites; and

18 WHEREAS, Individuals making school threats want to cause

1 chaos, uncertainty and disruption; and

2 WHEREAS, School threats, either through social media, word of
3 mouth or other means, need to be reported to school authorities
4 and law enforcement to be thoroughly investigated and to allow
5 for notification to parents and guardians of credible threats;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, If school personnel are well-trained on how to
8 intervene and quickly respond to threats, threats will become
9 less effective because such a response will eliminate the chaos,
10 uncertainty and disruption intended by the maker; and

11 WHEREAS, Education is the key to decreasing, and possibly
12 eliminating, the number of threats and violent incidents; and

13 WHEREAS, If students know that a school handles threats
14 seriously through the use of visible security, by keeping
15 parents and guardians informed of the procedures used when
16 threats are received and by having a role for everyone on school
17 property, the number of school threats will decline; therefore
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
20 State Government Commission to conduct a study on school safety
21 programs of the 500 public school districts, including charter
22 schools, in this Commonwealth; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
24 report with recommendations on a Statewide school security
25 program for all schools within this Commonwealth and recommend
26 funding sources for the school security program as to eliminate
27 the appearance of an unfunded mandate applied to the school
28 district; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
30 its report to the House of Representatives within one year of

1 the adoption of this resolution.