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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 8

Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY AUMENT AND MARTIN, JANUARY 24, 2017

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 24, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a Special Committee on Senate Address to pursue  
2 possible address under section 7 of Article VI of the  
3 Constitution of Pennsylvania relating to Lancaster County  
4 Sheriff Mark S. Reese.

5 WHEREAS, Mark S. Reese is the Sheriff of Lancaster County;

6 and

7 WHEREAS, The office of sheriff is critical to local law  
8 enforcement in this Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, Citizens have the right to have complete confidence  
10 in local law enforcement officers; and

11 WHEREAS, In June 2016, it became public knowledge that  
12 Sheriff Reese has been accused of sexually harassing a deputy  
13 sheriff, sending her progressively graphic and harassing emails;

14 and

15 WHEREAS, Complaints have subsequently been filed with the  
16 Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and the United States  
17 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, citing "severe and  
18 pervasive" sexual harassment; and

19 WHEREAS, According to published reports, Sheriff Reese has

1 admitted to sending pornographic emails to his deputy; and

2 WHEREAS, On July 26, 2016, Sheriff Reese put himself on paid  
3 leave from his office, and the Lancaster County Commissioners  
4 have since called for his resignation; and

5 WHEREAS, Sheriff Reese has refused to resign his position and  
6 instead remains on paid leave; and

7 WHEREAS, It has been reported that since Sheriff Reese's  
8 departure, Lancaster County taxpayers have paid more than  
9 \$50,000 in legal costs and salary for the sheriff, who earns  
10 \$85,460 annually; and

11 WHEREAS, Lancaster County is effectively without a sheriff  
12 and the Commonwealth is immersed in a scandal involving one of  
13 its critical local law enforcement officers; and

14 WHEREAS, Stability and leadership in the Lancaster County  
15 Sheriff's Office is essential to meeting its mission, which is  
16 to ensure a safe environment for the community, promote an  
17 excellent quality of life and provide a substantial level of  
18 services directed in a courteous and respectful manner for the  
19 protection of lives, property and civil rights of all residents;  
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate establish a Special Committee on  
22 Senate Address to pursue possible address under Article VI,  
23 Section 7, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania relating to  
24 Sheriff Mark S. Reese; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Special Committee on Senate Address  
26 consist of three members of the majority party appointed by the  
27 President pro tempore, one of whom shall be designated as the  
28 chairperson of the committee; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Special Committee on Senate Address also  
30 consist of three members of the minority party appointed by the

1 President pro tempore in consultation with the Minority Leader;  
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the President pro tempore serve on the Special  
4 Committee on Senate Address as an ex-officio voting member of  
5 the committee; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Special Committee on Senate Address submit  
7 a report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate no  
8 later than 90 days following the appointment of its members; and  
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That, within 24 hours of the adoption of this  
11 resolution, the Sergeant-at-Arms serve this resolution upon Mark  
12 S. Reese, Sheriff of Lancaster County.