
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 787 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BURNS, FREEMAN, DAVIDSON, GAINNEY, DeLUCA,
ROEBUCK, SCHWEYER AND HILL-EVANS, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study and issue a report on irregularities in the
3 incarceration of African Americans and Hispanic Americans in
4 this Commonwealth.

5 WHEREAS, African Americans and Hispanic Americans make up
6 approximately 32% of the population of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, In 2015, African Americans and Hispanic Americans
8 comprised 56% of all individuals incarcerated in the United
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, While African Americans and white Americans use
11 drugs at similar rates, the imprisonment rate of African
12 Americans for drug-related offenses is almost six times that of
13 white Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, The disproportionate incarceration rate of African
15 Americans and Hispanic Americans in the United States draws
16 concern to the incarceration rates of these populations in this
17 Commonwealth; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
19 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study and

1 issue a report on irregularities in the incarceration of African
2 Americans and Hispanic Americans in this Commonwealth; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That the report include, but not be limited to, the
5 following information:

6 (1) statistics relating to the incarceration of African
7 Americans and Hispanic Americans in this Commonwealth;

8 (2) an analysis of the statistical information,
9 including any irregularities in incarceration rates; and

10 (3) recommendations on what can be done to address any
11 irregularities in the incarceration of African Americans and
12 Hispanic Americans in this Commonwealth;

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
15 issue its report to the House of Representatives within 150 days
16 of the adoption of this resolution.