
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 942 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, BURNS AND YOUNGBLOOD,
JULY 14, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JULY 14, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the availability and accessibility of
3 obstetrical services in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, The medical assistance program ensures access to
5 comprehensive health care services for low-income individuals
6 and families or those with medical expenses exceeding available
7 income; and

8 WHEREAS, There are approximately 140,000 babies born in
9 Pennsylvania hospitals each year; and

10 WHEREAS, There is a growing trend of diminished access to
11 care for women who are pregnant, due in part to the closing of
12 at least 33 hospital obstetrical units in the last two decades
13 and increasing shortages of obstetricians, family practitioners,
14 nurse midwives, technicians, anesthesiologists and other trained
15 personnel; and

16 WHEREAS, Medical Assistance funds one of every three births
17 each year in this Commonwealth and is the most important source
18 of financing for the cost of care for premature infants;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
3 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a
4 comprehensive study to assure readily available and coordinated
5 obstetrical care of the highest quality to the citizens of this
6 Commonwealth; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the committee report on its study and include
8 in the report examination of the availability of obstetricians
9 and nurse midwives and other health care professionals needed
10 for the care of expectant mothers, the adequacy of access to the
11 full spectrum of prenatal, obstetrical and postpartum care for
12 each region of this Commonwealth and by insurance status, the
13 adequacy of insurer or managed care provider networks for
14 obstetrical services, identification of any standards of care
15 ratios for the number of physicians and nurse midwives per
16 number of expectant mothers and births and comparison to
17 Pennsylvania data, adequacy of insurance coverage for expectant
18 mothers, comparison of the range of Pennsylvania Medical
19 Assistance payments for obstetrical care to Medical Assistance
20 payments made in other states and comparison of Pennsylvania
21 fees paid for obstetrical care by other health care insurers or
22 payors; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the committee make recommendations to the
24 General Assembly on actions that could be taken to ensure
25 adequate availability and accessibility of a full spectrum of
26 obstetrical care to all citizens of this Commonwealth; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the committee submit its report and
29 recommendations to the Chief Clerk of the House of
30 Representatives by December 31, 2020.