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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1063 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY O'MARA, HILL-EVANS, ISAACSON, YOUNGBLOOD,  
SCHLOSSBERG, KENYATTA, A. DAVIS, CALTAGIRONE, KORTZ, KINSEY,  
LONGIETTI, HOWARD, FREEMAN, DALEY, McCLINTON, GILLEN, ULLMAN,  
FRANKEL, RABB, PASHINSKI, JOHNSON-HARRELL, ROZZI, SCHROEDER,  
MERSKI, SHUSTERMAN, DRISCOLL, ROEBUCK AND OTTEN,  
OCTOBER 19, 2020

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,  
OCTOBER 19, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 comprehensive study on Pennsylvania's long-term care  
3 facilities and issue a report of its findings and  
4 recommendations to the General Assembly.

5 WHEREAS, More than 80,000 Pennsylvanians live in more than  
6 700 long-term care facilities throughout this Commonwealth; and

7 WHEREAS, Long-term care facilities provide 24-hour skilled  
8 nursing care to residents who require assistance or supervision  
9 to complete daily activities and cannot live in their homes; and

10 WHEREAS, While the Department of Health licenses and conducts  
11 annual surveys of these facilities and handles complaints from  
12 residents and families, there exists a disparity in the level of  
13 care provided in facilities across this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, The Nursing Home Quality Improvement Task Force  
15 within the Department of Health was established in 2015 to offer  
16 recommendations on enhancing care and improving the safety of

1 long-term care facilities and the quality of life of their  
2 residents; and

3 WHEREAS, Despite the findings of the Nursing Home Quality  
4 Improvement Task Force, reports of inadequate and substandard  
5 care persist; and

6 WHEREAS, An investigation published in November 2018 found  
7 that care did not improve following a lawsuit against a chain of  
8 long-term care facilities in this Commonwealth and the promise  
9 of increased oversight from regulators; and

10 WHEREAS, As Pennsylvania's population ages, there is a need  
11 for a better process to address deficiencies in long-term care  
12 and a greater focus on person-centered care; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
14 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study on  
15 Pennsylvania's long-term care facilities and issue a report of  
16 its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly; and be  
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission offer  
19 legislative and regulatory recommendations to improve the care  
20 provided to residents in long-term care facilities; and be it  
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
23 how the following impact the care provided to, and quality of  
24 life for, residents in long-term care facilities:

25 (1) nurse staffing competency and mix, staffing  
26 requirements and ratios;

27 (2) person-centered care and culture change;

28 (3) the Department of Health survey process, including  
29 the training, continuing education and retention of  
30 surveyors;

1 (4) recruitment and retention of long-term care leaders,  
2 including administrators and directors;

3 (5) Medicaid reimbursement rates and the amount of money  
4 received from the Federal and State governments;

5 (6) value-based reimbursement which rewards facilities  
6 that improve quality control, person-centered care and other  
7 processes as measured by the Department of Health; and

8 (7) the role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in  
9 Pennsylvania;

10 and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission accept  
12 and review oral or written comments, documents and other  
13 information from persons seeking to provide input regarding the  
14 study on long-term care facilities; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That for the purposes of the study, the Joint State  
16 Government Commission solicit input from representatives of all  
17 aspects of care in long-term care facilities, including, but not  
18 limited to, the following:

19 (1) the Department of Aging;

20 (2) the Department of Health;

21 (3) the Department of Human Services;

22 (4) registered nurses, certified nursing assistants,  
23 licensed practical nurses and other long-term care staff; and

24 (5) the Pennsylvania Health Care Association and any  
25 other private advocacy organizations;

26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
28 report of its findings, along with any statutory or regulatory  
29 recommendations, to the General Assembly within one year of the  
30 adoption of this resolution.