

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 26

Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, MADDEN, GUENST,
HOHENSTEIN, SANCHEZ, CONKLIN, KINSEY, SOLOMON AND KRAJEWSKI,
MARCH 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 10, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on the impact of sexual harassment, sexual assault,
3 dating violence, domestic violence and stalking on
4 Commonwealth students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 and
5 postsecondary institutions and issue a report of its findings
6 and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

7 WHEREAS, One in five women and one in twenty men experience
8 sexual violence during their time in college; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice has found
10 that nearly 20% of girls between 14 and 17 years of age
11 experience sexual assault; and

12 WHEREAS, Research suggests that younger students, lesbian,
13 gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) students,
14 students of color and students with disabilities experience
15 higher rates of sexual violence and relationship violence than
16 their peers; and

17 WHEREAS, One in three adolescents experience violent and
18 abusive dating behaviors, including physical, sexual, emotional,
19 technological or verbal abuse; and

1 WHEREAS, The trauma of sexual violence has significant
2 negative impacts on students, including immediate and long-term
3 health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, substance
4 abuse, anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation, as well as
5 difficulties with school work or grades and problems with
6 friends, roommates, other students or family members; and

7 WHEREAS, Each year, an estimated 61,141 girls between 14 and
8 17 years of age in this Commonwealth experience sexual assault,
9 resulting in an estimated \$14.8 billion in lifetime costs
10 resulting from decreased educational attainment and
11 productivity; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's school districts and postsecondary
13 institutions must ensure that all learners have access to high-
14 quality education in environments that are free from
15 discrimination, harassment and violence; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
17 State Government Commission to conduct a study on the impact of
18 sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic
19 violence and stalking on Commonwealth students enrolled in
20 grades 6 through 12 and postsecondary institutions and issue a
21 report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and
22 the General Assembly; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission seek
24 input and information as appropriate from at least the
25 following:

- 26 (1) the Department of Education;
- 27 (2) the Department of Health;
- 28 (3) the Department of Human Services;
- 29 (4) the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and
30 Delinquency;

(5) students representing each of the following:

(i) grades 6 through 8, including private and public institutions, charter schools and cyber schools;

(ii) grades 9 through 12, including private and public institutions, charter schools and cyber schools;

and

(iii) institutions of higher education;

(6) teachers and staff members from private and public institutions, charter schools and cyber schools;

(7) school administrators, including superintendents, serving in rural, urban and suburban school districts;

(8) faculty and staff members from institutions of higher education;

(9) presidents of institutions of higher education, including public and private two-year and four-year institutions;

(10) deans of students or equivalent positions within institutions of higher education, including public and private two-year and four-year institutions;

(11) Title IX coordinators serving in rural, urban and suburban school districts as well as in institutions of higher education, including public and private two-year and four-year institutions;

(12) campus law enforcement or security personnel serving at institutions of higher education, including public and private two-year and four-year institutions;

(13) a police chief of a municipality containing an institution of higher education, including public and private two-year and four-year institutions;

(14) a representative of the judiciary with experience

1 in matters affecting young adults;

2 (15) a representative of a hospital or health care
3 provider;

4 (16) a medical professional from a campus health care
5 center of an institution of higher education;

6 (17) a representative of an organization providing
7 services to victims of relationship violence or sexual
8 assault;

9 (18) a psychiatrist or licensed clinical social worker
10 licensed and practicing in this Commonwealth with
11 demonstrated expertise in treatment of victims of
12 relationship violence or sexual assault; and

13 (19) a representative of an organization representing
14 the interests of LGBTQ youths in this Commonwealth;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
17 surveys and other information requests to institutions of higher
18 education and school districts to assist in its study and
19 recommendations; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the report of the Joint State Government
21 Commission include findings and recommendations on improving
22 responses and establishing consistent responses to sexual
23 harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence
24 and stalking at secondary and postsecondary institutions and
25 that the report:

26 (1) compare and analyze responses to sexual harassment,
27 sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and
28 stalking in different educational settings, including public
29 and private secondary and postsecondary institutions;

30 (2) identify and review prevention and response policies

1 for both secondary and postsecondary institutions aimed at
2 reducing sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence,
3 domestic violence and stalking;

4 (3) identify and analyze the number, frequency and
5 benefits or deficiencies of postsecondary institutions'
6 campus climate surveys, including how the surveys are
7 conducted and how the surveys are used to construct the
8 postsecondary institutions' policies, programs and procedures
9 relating to sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating
10 violence, domestic violence and stalking; and

11 (4) include other data determined to be necessary or
12 appropriate;

13 and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue
15 its report to the Governor and the General Assembly within one
16 year of the adoption of this resolution.