
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 183 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, MURT, BISHOP, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD,
THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE, V. BROWN, DRISCOLL, READSHAW, BROWNLEE,
DAVIDSON, D. COSTA, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, STURLA, DeLUCA,
DEASY, HARHAI, GIBBONS, McCARTER AND SABATINA, MARCH 24, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, MARCH 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a comprehensive review of data maintained by the
3 Department of Education and the Department of Human Services
4 on the number of transition-age youth and young adults
5 diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

6 WHEREAS, The Autism census report update in 2014, using data
7 from the 2011 census and social service databases, indicated
8 that there were approximately 8,395 adults 21 years of age and
9 older with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in 2013 and projects
10 that by 2020 there will be more than 36,000 adults with ASD; and

11 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2014-2015, an estimated 518 slots for
12 Adult Autism Waivers (AAW) are available and an estimated 146
13 slots for Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) are available;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) reports that it
16 maintains interest lists for AAW and ACAP which do not guarantee
17 either a place in line or that services will be received and, in
18 December 2014, there were an estimated 1,400 people on the

1 interest lists; and

2 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
3 receiving services through the intellectual disabilities service
4 system, Medicaid waiver services administered through the Office
5 of Long-Term Living, mental health services or the Office of
6 Vocational Rehabilitation; and

7 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
8 who are not dually diagnosed with other disabilities and do not
9 meet the eligibility criteria for one of the Medicaid waivers
10 for people with intellectual disabilities and people with
11 physical disabilities or other similar programs and are
12 therefore in need of services administered by the BAS; and

13 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
14 who are found in other State and community service systems
15 including homeless services, State hospitals, the criminal
16 justice system and the correction system; and

17 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
18 not served in any State or community system who are living at
19 home and reliant on aging parents or siblings; and

20 WHEREAS, The Office of Developmental Programs has developed
21 and maintains a comprehensive waiting list for people with
22 intellectual disabilities that categorizes the level of support
23 needed by each individual, the county of residence and if the
24 person resides with an elderly caregiver, however, that type of
25 list has not been developed for people with ASD; and

26 WHEREAS, The budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 allocated
27 funding for an additional 1,100 people with intellectual
28 disabilities but only allocated funding for an additional 100
29 people with ASD; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the

1 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a
2 comprehensive review of data maintained by the Department of
3 Education and the Department of Human Services on the number of
4 transition-age youth and young adults diagnosed with Autism
5 Spectrum Disorder; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
7 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the
8 Department of Human Services and the Bureau of Autism Services
9 and recommend a plan to provide home-based and community-based
10 supports for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and also
11 issue an electronic copy of the report to the House of
12 Representatives no later than six months from the adoption of
13 this resolution.