
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 212 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, E. NELSON, RYAN, JAMES, THOMAS, POLINCHOCK
AND McNEILL, JUNE 20, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, JUNE 20, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a legislative task force on intellectual
2 disabilities, developmental disabilities and autism and
3 directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the
4 impact of this Commonwealth's current delivery of services to
5 individuals with intellectual disabilities, developmental
6 disabilities and autism and to report its findings and
7 recommendations to the House of Representatives.

8 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is the fifth most populous state
9 in the United States with diverse demographics and ever-changing
10 health care needs; and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals living with an intellectual disability
12 account for approximately 17% of the population of the United
13 States; and

14 WHEREAS, One in 44 children are diagnosed with autism each
15 year; and

16 WHEREAS, Nearly 18% of children are diagnosed with a
17 developmental disability each year; and

18 WHEREAS, Approximately 35,000 individuals with an
19 intellectual disability, developmental disability or autism
20 receive waiver services through the Consolidated Waiver,

1 Community Living Waiver, Adult Autism Waiver and the
2 Person/Family Directed Support Waiver; and

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has created an integrated system
4 for individuals with intellectual disabilities, developmental
5 disabilities and autism; and

6 WHEREAS, Individuals who have an intellectual disability,
7 developmental disability or autism are in need of additional
8 services in their community; and

9 WHEREAS, Individuals and their families should have a choice
10 of options, including the choice to decline a placement they do
11 not believe to be appropriate, for individuals in need;
12 therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives establish a
14 legislative task force on services provided to individuals with
15 intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and
16 autism; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the task force be comprised of four members of
18 the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
19 House of Representatives, two members recommended by the
20 Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and two members
21 recommended by the Minority Leader of the House of
22 Representatives; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
24 State Government Commission to assist the task force and conduct
25 a study on the impact of this Commonwealth's current needs and
26 system capacity for providing opportunities for individuals with
27 intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and autism
28 in this Commonwealth; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part
30 of its study, establish an advisory committee consisting of the

1 following members:

2 (1) A representative recommended by the Department of
3 Human Services, Office of Developmental Programs.

4 (2) A representative recommended by the Department of
5 Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

6 (3) A representative from the autism advocacy community.

7 (4) Two relatives who have a loved one receiving waiver
8 service.

9 (5) Two relatives of individuals or individuals who are
10 on the waiting list for services.

11 (6) A representative of an organization that offers
12 community participation supports.

13 (7) A representative from the Rehabilitation and
14 Community Providers Association.

15 (8) A representative from Pennsylvania Advocacy and
16 Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities.

17 (9) A representative from a community or campus setting.

18 (10) A physician who is a member of the Pennsylvania
19 Psychiatric Society who has experience treating individuals
20 with intellectual disabilities.

21 (11) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania
22 Association of County Administrators of Mental Health and
23 Developmental Services.

24 (12) Any other representatives from other organizations
25 that are deemed appropriate by the Joint State Government
26 Commission;

27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the study examine the impact of this
29 Commonwealth's current delivery system available to individuals
30 with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and

1 autism; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the study examine the efficiency, uniformity
3 and best practices of the administration of services through the
4 county system, including waiver services, waiting lists and
5 transitional protocols; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
7 how current Federal and State laws and regulations impact and
8 limit supports and services; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the study examine collaborations with the
10 Department of Human Services, managed care organizations and
11 providers, including reimbursement rate settings, funding
12 sources and how providers collaborate to serve individuals with
13 intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and
14 autism; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
16 the opportunities for integrated job coaching, community
17 participation supports, including for individuals who cannot go
18 into the community, and additional programs offered through the
19 Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study
21 this Commonwealth's current treatment needs, including network
22 capacity to treat and care for high acuity individuals,
23 individuals with complex medical needs in addition to
24 intellectual disabilities and individuals who need special care
25 and assistance with intensive behavioral health issues; and be
26 it further

27 RESOLVED, That the study examine all available living
28 settings, including intermediate care facilities, community
29 homes, State centers, lifeshare, independent living with
30 assistance, farmhouse settings, campus settings and any other

1 innovative residential services available to individuals living
2 with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and
3 autism; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the study include barriers and obstacles in
5 transportation for individuals living in the home or receiving
6 community-based services for jobs, medical appointments and
7 peer-to-peer groups; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the study examine workforce issues, direct
9 support professionals and other behavioral specialists or health
10 care practitioners who assist with the provision of services;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission examine
13 providers who have ceased operations since the beginning of the
14 COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission solicit
16 input from representatives and advocates from all aspects of the
17 sector and continuum of care to assist the Joint State
18 Government Commission with its findings and recommendations in
19 the report; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
21 report with its findings and recommendations no later than June
22 1, 2023, to all of the following:

23 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Health and Human
24 Services Committee of the Senate.

25 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Human Services
26 Committee of the House of Representatives.