

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 212 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY FARRY, E. NELSON, RYAN, JAMES, THOMAS, POLINCHOCK, McNEILL, STRUZZI, C. WILLIAMS, MAJOR, LABS, TOMLINSON, RADER AND SCHNEE, JUNE 20, 2022

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 29, 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% 1.7% of the population of the <--
13 United 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~~ A <--  
4 MULTIFACETED system for individuals with intellectual  
5 disabilities, developmental 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 REASONABLY decline a <--  
11 placement they do not believe to be appropriate, for individuals  
12 in need; 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 OR A SELF-ADVOCATE FROM THE AUTISM COMMUNITY. <--

8 (4) Two relatives who have a loved one receiving ~~waiver~~ <--  
9 ~~service.~~ HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED WAIVER SERVICES OR ARE <--  
10 THEMSELVES RECEIVING WAIVER SERVICES, WITH AT LEAST ONE BEING  
11 THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

12 (5) Two relatives of individuals WHO ARE ON THE WAITING <--  
13 LIST FOR SERVICES or individuals who THEMSELVES are on the <--  
14 waiting list for services, WITH AT LEAST ONE BEING THE <--  
15 PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL.

16 (6) A representative of an organization that offers  
17 community participation supports.

18 (7) A representative from the Rehabilitation and  
19 Community Providers Association.

20 (8) A representative from Pennsylvania Advocacy and  
21 Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities.

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

23 (10) A physician who is a member of the Pennsylvania  
24 Psychiatric Society who has experience treating individuals  
25 with intellectual disabilities, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES <--  
26 AND AUTISM.

27 (11) A representative recommended by the Pennsylvania  
28 Association of County Administrators of Mental Health and  
29 Developmental Services.

30 (12) Any other representatives from other organizations

1 that are deemed appropriate by the Joint State Government  
2 Commission;

3 and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the study examine the impact of this  
5 Commonwealth's current delivery system available to individuals  
6 with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and  
7 autism; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the study examine the efficiency, uniformity  
9 and best practices of the administration of services through the  
10 county system, QUALITY OF LIFE OUTCOMES, including waiver <--  
11 services, waiting lists and transitional protocols, OF MOVING <--  
12 INTO AND OUT OF ONE WAIVER OR PROGRAM TO ANOTHER OR  
13 TRANSITIONING OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
15 how current Federal and State laws and regulations impact and  
16 limit supports and services; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the study examine collaborations ~~with~~ BETWEEN <--  
18 the Department of Human Services, managed care organizations and  
19 providers, including reimbursement rate settings, DIRECT SUPPORT <--  
20 PROFESSIONALS, OTHER funding sources and how providers  
21 collaborate to serve individuals with intellectual disabilities,  
22 developmental disabilities and autism; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
24 the opportunities for ~~integrated~~ job coaching, community <--  
25 participation supports, including for individuals who cannot go  
26 ~~into the community~~ OR CHOOSE NOT TO GO INTO THE COMMUNITY <--  
27 BECAUSE OF UNDERLYING ISSUES, and additional programs offered  
28 through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation OR THE <--  
29 EMPLOYMENT FIRST COMMISSION; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study

1 this Commonwealth's current treatment needs, including network  
2 capacity to treat and care for high acuity individuals,  
3 individuals with complex medical needs in addition to  
4 intellectual disabilities and individuals who need special care  
5 and assistance with intensive behavioral health issues, <--  
6 INCLUDING, WHEN APPROPRIATE, PROVIDER REFERRAL, ADMISSION AND  
7 DISCHARGE PRACTICES; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the study examine all available living  
9 settings, including intermediate care facilities, community  
10 homes, ~~State centers, lifeshare,~~ SERVICES WITHIN FAMILY HOMES, <--  
11 STATE CENTERS, LIFESHARING, independent living with assistance,  
12 farmhouse settings, campus settings and any other innovative  
13 residential services available to individuals living with  
14 intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and  
15 autism; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the study include barriers and obstacles in  
17 transportation for individuals living in the home or receiving  
18 community-based services for jobs, medical appointments and  
19 peer-to-peer groups; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the study examine workforce issues, direct  
21 support professionals, SUPPORTS COORDINATORS and other <--  
22 behavioral HEALTH OR MENTAL HEALTH specialists or health care <--  
23 practitioners who assist with the provision of services; and be  
24 it further

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

28 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission solicit  
29 input from representatives and advocates from all aspects of the  
30 sector and continuum of care to assist the Joint State

1 Government Commission with its findings and recommendations in  
2 the report; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a  
4 report with its findings and recommendations no later than ~~June~~ <--  
5 ~~1, 2023,~~ 18 MONTHS AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION to all <--  
6 of the following:

7 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Health and Human  
8 Services Committee of the Senate.

9 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Human Services  
10 Committee of the House of Representatives.