

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 219 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY CERRATO, KHAN, MUNROE, FRIEL, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, DONAHUE, McNEILL, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, SANCHEZ, PROBST, HOHENSTEIN, MADSEN, HANBIDGE, BOROWSKI, KINSEY, T. DAVIS, KAZEEM, SHUSTERMAN, WARREN, BRENNAN, FLEMING AND STEELE, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study of emergency child care and provide recommendations.

3 WHEREAS, Crisis child care is important to provide for
4 families in this Commonwealth who find themselves suddenly
5 unable to provide the nurturing care a child deserves; and

6 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth should provide safe emergency child
7 care options to help parents who face a crisis; and

8 WHEREAS, Crisis nurseries can take many different forms,
9 including nurseries, day care centers and community centers; and

10 WHEREAS, Crisis nurseries provide immediate, temporary relief
11 for families experiencing challenging life circumstances, such
12 as health emergencies, situations that place a child at risk of
13 abuse and neglect or any other parental stressors; and

14 WHEREAS, Crisis nurseries face the same challenges as other
15 child care facilities in this Commonwealth and, for the House of
16 Representatives to be well-informed about the stability of

1 crisis nurseries, the challenges faced by child care facilities
2 must be understood; and

3 WHEREAS, Currently, child care facilities struggle to recruit
4 and retain staff across Pennsylvania; and

5 WHEREAS, Staffing issues are caused, in part, by low wages,
6 which average \$12.43 per hour in Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, Even with stimulus funding from the COVID-19
8 pandemic, child care facilities have not been able to meet the
9 demand for child care; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 60% of Pennsylvania residents live in a child
11 care desert, defined as an area where there are three times the
12 number of children than openings at child care centers; and

13 WHEREAS, There are just 12 crisis nurseries in the
14 Commonwealth, which is insufficient to support our communities;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania should take all opportunities to
17 utilize funding made available by the Federal Government,
18 especially funds that could provide meaningful assistance to
19 those in crisis; and

20 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives should craft policy
21 informed by a thorough understanding of the resources at its
22 disposal, and members should be informed when pursuing
23 legislative solutions; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
25 State Government Commission to conduct a study of emergency
26 child care and provide recommendations; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission's study
28 of emergency child care, at a minimum, includes the following:

29 (1) A review and analysis of the current availability of
30 emergency child care in Pennsylvania, including the types of

1 license under which any emergency child care facilities
2 operate.

3 (2) A review and analysis of the challenges that
4 emergency child care facilities face in expanding service.

5 (3) A review of any Federal or State funding for
6 emergency child care programs, including how licensing
7 impacts eligibility for government support.

8 (4) A review of the available and potential funding
9 sources for emergency child care programs under Medicare,
10 Medicaid and other insurers.

11 (5) A review of the availability of and funding for
12 emergency child care in other states in the nation, including
13 how those states license facilities.

14 (6) Policy and legislative recommendations that would
15 allow the Commonwealth to access any available Federal
16 funding for emergency child care that it does not currently
17 utilize and that would suggest other ways for Pennsylvania to
18 support networks of crisis nurseries and emergency child
19 care.

20 (7) Any other matters deemed appropriate by the Joint
21 State Government Commission;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part
24 of its study, establish an advisory committee consisting of the
25 following members:

26 (1) The Secretary of Health or a designee.

27 (2) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

28 (3) A representative from a county children and youth
29 agency.

30 (4) A representative of an organization representing

1 county commissioners.

2 (5) Two individuals who work in an emergency child care
3 facility.

4 (6) Two parents who have utilized emergency child care
5 services.

6 (7) A representative of an organization of private child
7 care providers.

8 (8) A representative of a Statewide nonprofit membership
9 organization or center of group or family child care
10 programs;

11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission present
13 its report to the House of Representatives no later than 18
14 months after the adoption of this resolution.