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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 226 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, COHEN, SCHLOSSBERG,  
FREEMAN, KULA, YOUNGBLOOD, MAHONEY, ROZZI, D. COSTA, WHITE,  
V. BROWN, FLECK, CLYMER, GRELL, BISHOP, KORTZ, RAPP, EVERETT,  
WATERS, CUTLER, MOLCHANY, DAVIDSON, HENNESSEY AND NEUMAN,  
APRIL 9, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, APRIL 9, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Calling on the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study of all aspects of Pennsylvania's mental health system  
3 and report back with specific recommendations for amendment  
4 and improvement, particularly as to how criminal defendants  
5 with mental illness are addressed by established procedures,  
6 policies and programs.

7 WHEREAS, Mental illness presents a persistent challenge to  
8 society in general as it has for centuries; and

9 WHEREAS, The challenge increases when the mentally ill enter  
10 the criminal justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, The societal response has often been to segregate  
12 the mentally ill from society as a whole; and

13 WHEREAS, The act of July 9, 1976 (P.L.817, No.143), known as  
14 the Mental Health Procedures Act, represents a comprehensive and  
15 humane governmental response to the issue of mental illness  
16 generally; and

17 WHEREAS, The freestanding act has been part of Pennsylvania  
18 law for the past 37 years; and

1       WHEREAS, The act and its attendant system are in need of  
2 revision and updating; and

3       WHEREAS, In order to determine how to best provide for  
4 meaningful amendment to the Mental Health Procedures Act,  
5 information on how the present system functions is absolutely  
6 necessary; therefore be it

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives call on the Joint  
8 State Government Commission to conduct a study of all aspects of  
9 Pennsylvania's mental health system and report back with  
10 specific recommendations for amendment and improvement,  
11 particularly as to how criminal defendants with mental illness  
12 are addressed by established procedures, policies and programs;  
13 and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the report is due within one year of the  
15 passage of this resolution.