
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 455 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY STEELE, HILL-EVANS, PROBST, SCHLOSSBERG, GIRAL,
MADSEN, CERRATO, DONAHUE, O'MARA, SHUSTERMAN, SAPPEY, KAZEEM,
CURRY AND SCOTT, MAY 29, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 29, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Health of the Commonwealth to study
2 the impact of smart phones on children's health and
3 development.

4 WHEREAS, Sixty percent of children are exposed to smart
5 phones prior to five years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 80% of teenagers own smart phones,
7 with half of all youth in the United States owning a personal
8 phone by 11 years of age; and

9 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics suggests that
10 children under 18 to 24 months of age refrain from screen time;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Additionally, children two to five years of age
13 should have a limited screen time of no more than one
14 consecutive hour per day; and

15 WHEREAS, According to psychologists, a decline in children's
16 mental health, including anxiety, depression, self-harm and
17 suicide, is associated with the growing use of smart phones,
18 which has increased access to social media; and

1 WHEREAS, Data has demonstrated that smart phone use
2 negatively affects sleeping patterns, making it increasingly
3 difficult for young people to fall asleep, which leads to
4 reduced alertness and cognitive functioning; and

5 WHEREAS, It is vitally important to ensure that
6 Pennsylvania's youths are protected from potential harms
7 associated with smart phones; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
9 Department of Health of the Commonwealth to study the impact of
10 smart phones on children's health and development; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That the Department of Health issue a report of its
13 findings on its Internet website, share the report with the
14 General Assembly, recommend alternatives and consider
15 requirements for pediatricians to provide the department's
16 guidelines to parents within one year of the passage of this
17 resolution.