
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 131 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, FOLMER, FERLO, WASHINGTON, DINNIMAN,
ERICKSON, SMITH, BROWNE, GREENLEAF, TOMLINSON, BREWSTER,
HUGHES, FONTANA, RAFFERTY, COSTA, WAUGH, PILEGGI, SCHWANK,
WHITE, SOLOBAY, BRUBAKER, VANCE AND MENSCH, MAY 8, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 8, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating Wednesday, May 8, 2013, as "Pennsylvania Health Care
2 Information Technology Awareness Day."

3 WHEREAS, Health care costs represent 17.6% of Gross Domestic
4 Product (GDP) nationally; and

5 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of health care transactions are
6 paper based; and

7 WHEREAS, The health care industry invests only 5% of revenue
8 on information technology and management systems versus 10.5% of
9 other data-intensive industries such as banking; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States spends more than \$2.6 trillion on
11 health care a year or 17.6% of our nation's Gross Domestic
12 Product (GDP), yet some of that spending is unnecessary and
13 spent on clinical and administrative waste, theft and excess
14 costs; and

15 WHEREAS, Spending on health care has risen over 40% in the
16 last decade; and

17 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, medical assistance/Medicaid

1 spending in 2010 was \$18.7 billion; and

2 WHEREAS, A study by the Commonwealth Fund has demonstrated
3 that the use of automated clinical decision support systems can
4 result in the net reduction of \$538 per patient per hospital
5 stay; and

6 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine reports there are at least
7 1.5 million preventable adverse drug events per year, each
8 adding more than \$8,700 to the cost of a hospital stay; and

9 WHEREAS, The American Hospital Association reports that
10 Pennsylvania's hospitals and health systems are outpacing
11 hospitals nationally in their adoption and use of clinical
12 information technology and information management systems; and

13 WHEREAS, Health care providers in this Commonwealth report an
14 improved ability to recruit physicians coming out of medical
15 school when advanced information technology is employed at their
16 sites; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2012, Senate Bill No. 8 was signed into law,
18 enacting the Pennsylvania eHealth Information Technology Act and
19 establishing the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority and
20 a health information exchange; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate Wednesday, May 8, 2013,
22 as "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness
23 Day"; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the importance of raising
25 awareness of health care information technology and the vital
26 role it will play in helping to save lives and reduce the cost
27 of health care for all Pennsylvanians; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate welcome friends, supporters and
29 members of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems
30 Society (HIMSS) on their visit to the State Capitol to promote

1 better health care in this Commonwealth through broader adoption
2 of advanced health care information technology and management
3 systems on that day.