
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 95 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY VOGEL, AUMENT, BAKER, BLAKE, BREWSTER, BROWNE,
COSTA, DINNIMAN, FOLMER, FONTANA, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON,
KILLION, MENSCH, SCHWANK, TARTAGLIONE, J. WARD, K. WARD AND
YAW, APRIL 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, APRIL 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 30, 2019, as "Pennsylvania Health Care
2 Information Technology Awareness Day."

3 WHEREAS, United States health care spending increased 3.9%
4 in 2017, reaching \$3.5 trillion, or \$10,739 per person; and

5 WHEREAS, As a share of Gross Domestic Product, health care
6 spending was 18% in 2016, up from 17.7% in 2015; and

7 WHEREAS, Over the last decade, health care spending has grown
8 by more than 40%; and

9 WHEREAS, The health care industry invests only 3% to 6% of
10 its revenue on information technology and management systems;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Similar investments by other data-intensive
13 industries, such as banking and financial services, range from
14 4.4% to 11.4%; and

15 WHEREAS, Health care information technology has led to
16 improved guideline adherence, better disease surveillance and
17 greater use of patient-centered care; and

1 WHEREAS, Health care information technology has reduced
2 medication errors and adverse drug events and lessened
3 disparities in access to care; and

4 WHEREAS, Annual Promoting Interoperability Programs reporting
5 for Medicare Eligible Professionals, Medicaid Eligible
6 Professionals and Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access
7 Hospitals, indicates 546,644 Unique Providers paid through
8 October 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, For the same period, the Amount Paid, Program to
10 Date, reached \$38,422,505,920; and

11 WHEREAS, The digital transformation is driving global
12 information technology spending to more than \$3.7 trillion, its
13 highest level; and

14 WHEREAS, Enterprise software followed by information
15 technology services are spurring this trend; and

16 WHEREAS, Artificial intelligence, cognitive computing,
17 security software, machine learning and blockchain technology
18 are other drivers of spending growth; and

19 WHEREAS, The Internet of Things, mobility tools, data
20 analytics/business intelligence, information exchange and
21 communication systems are projected drivers of future spending
22 growth; and

23 WHEREAS, The health care industry is experiencing its highest
24 rates of change, requiring budget increases to implement and
25 monitor advancements; and

26 WHEREAS, The Office of the National Coordinator for Health
27 Information Technology has outlined benefits of information
28 technology; and

29 WHEREAS, These benefits relate to medical record transparency
30 and accuracy, coordinated care and overuse of tests and

1 procedures; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the Institute of Medicine, at least 1.5
3 million preventable adverse drug events occur every year, each
4 adding more than \$8,700 to the cost of a hospital stay; and

5 WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
6 reports \$1,722,624,114.51 in combined Medicare and Medicaid
7 spending under Promoting Interoperability Programs from January
8 2011 through October 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, The Office of the National Coordinator for Health
10 Information Technology reports that 92% of eligible hospitals
11 and 83% of ambulatory health care providers in this Commonwealth
12 have adopted certified electronic health records; and

13 WHEREAS, Health care providers in this Commonwealth have
14 noted an improved ability to recruit physicians coming out of
15 medical school when advanced information technology is deployed;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Members and supporters of the Healthcare Information
18 and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) encourage greater access
19 to comprehensive care for rural Pennsylvanians; and

20 WHEREAS, Recommendations include expanded use of telehealth
21 through enactment of Federal telemedicine legislation, workforce
22 development funding and adoption of interoperability standards;
23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate April 30, 2019, as
25 "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day";
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize that quality, safety and
28 cost effectiveness gains are achievable when information
29 technology and information exchange are applied to health care;
30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Senate welcome HIMSS members and
2 supporters to the State Capitol, acknowledging a common goal of
3 securing better health care that integrates information
4 technology and information exchange.