

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 6

Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, TOMLINSON, TEPLITZ, FONTANA, SCHWANK, PILEGGI, WASHINGTON, MENSCH, ARGALL, RAFFERTY, FARNESE, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, BREWSTER, McILHINNEY, WOZNIAK, STACK, VULAKOVICH, D. WHITE, BOSCOLA, COSTA, ALLOWAY, YUDICHAK, WILLIAMS, BLAKE AND HUGHES, JANUARY 18, 2013

AS AMENDED, JANUARY 29, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the
2 issue of violence prevention, to establish an advisory
3 committee to conduct a thorough and comprehensive analysis of
4 the underlying causes of violent crime, including mass
5 shootings, and to report to the Senate with its findings and
6 recommendations.

7 WHEREAS, The terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School
8 in Connecticut and other mass shootings in recent years require
9 additional review of the underlying causes of violent crime,
10 including mass shootings, in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the
11 nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Violent crime affects all Pennsylvanians; and

13 WHEREAS, There are common themes in many of these violent
14 events which require us to examine our laws and procedures
15 relating to violent crime; and

16 WHEREAS, These common themes include mental illness and
17 mental health treatment, keeping firearms out of the hands of
18 criminals and the mentally ill, school security, bullying, gang-

1 related activity, educational issues and cultural influences,
2 including violent video games; and

3 WHEREAS, In recent sessions, members of the General Assembly
4 have recognized the need to address the issue of violent crime
5 and have introduced numerous bills with that goal in mind; and

6 WHEREAS, The Senate Judiciary Committee received
7 recommendations relating to dealing with violent crime at
8 hearings held across this Commonwealth; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
10 Commission to establish an advisory committee of approximately
11 25 members consisting of public officials and experts on the
12 issue of violent crime, which is balanced so that it encompasses
13 a wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
15 with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and
16 comprehensive analysis of violent crime, mass shootings, the
17 issues set forth in this resolution and other related issues as
18 determined by the commission; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
20 with the advisory committee, study the proposals made to the
21 Senate Judiciary Committee, review other proposals, including
22 best practices that address the issue of violent crime, and,
23 based on this study, develop recommendations best suited for
24 Pennsylvania; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
26 establish a process by which interested members of the public
27 can make suggestions and have input; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations
29 to change mental health laws and procedures, INCLUDING THE ACT
30 OF JULY 9, 1976 (P.L.817, NO.143), KNOWN AS THE MENTAL HEALTH

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1 PROCEDURES ACT, TO AMEND 18 PA.C.S. CH. 61 SUBCH. A (RELATING TO
2 UNIFORM FIREARMS ACT) OR to implement necessary changes in State
3 statutes and practices, policies and procedures relating to
4 violent crime, including measures to make our schools safer, and
5 to develop awareness, education and other strategies to address
6 issues relating to violent crime; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
8 report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations not
9 later than December 31, 2013.