

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 929 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, HENNESSEY, BISHOP, D. COSTA, KOTIK, THOMAS, SAYLOR, MILLARD, READSHAW, MICOZZIE, BAKER, BROOKS, MAHONEY, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, MENTZER, BOBACK, TOBASH, GRELL, SWANGER, COHEN, HEFFLEY, GROVE, MURT, GINGRICH, EVERETT, NEILSON, KAUFFMAN, BIZZARRO, HARHAI, FLECK, GILLEN, GOODMAN, WATSON, McNEILL AND QUINN, JUNE 27, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the existing network of elder abuse task
3 forces in this Commonwealth and to assess the feasibility of
4 expanding the network Statewide.

5 WHEREAS, The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth is
6 responsible for oversight and implementation of the act of
7 November 6, 1987 (P.L.381, No.79), known as the Older Adults
8 Protective Services Act, (OAPSA) for individuals who are 60
9 years of age and older; and

10 WHEREAS, Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the
11 percentage of persons 65 years of age and older, behind only
12 Florida, Maine and West Virginia; and

13 WHEREAS, The department works closely with the 52 local area
14 agencies on aging who implement the OAPSA program at the local
15 level; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the department, in fiscal year 2011-- <--

1 ~~2012~~ 2012-2013, there were over ~~18,000~~ 18,500 reports of abuse <--
2 and given current trends in this Commonwealth and nationally, it
3 is anticipated that this number will continue to rise; and

4 WHEREAS, Of the ~~18,000~~ 18,500 abuse reports, cases of neglect <--
5 represent over ~~66%~~ 64% and financial exploitation represents the <--
6 second most common and fastest growing category at 16% of all
7 reports; and

8 WHEREAS, Elder abuse victims need to not only receive
9 protective services to cope with the harm that has been done to
10 them, but they also need to have the ability to seek restitution
11 and justice; and

12 WHEREAS, The Department of Aging Institute on Protective
13 Services at Temple University has worked collaboratively with
14 local area agencies on aging to establish multidisciplinary
15 elder abuse task forces that bring together professionals from
16 many different entities that work with victimized older adults
17 in order to bring different but equally valuable knowledge and
18 perspectives to work cooperatively in identifying and responding
19 to elder victimization; and

20 WHEREAS, The 33 currently existing elder abuse task forces
21 have proven that public awareness, education and community
22 partnerships are crucial in combating elder abuse and that each
23 existing task force is unique and tailored to meet the needs of
24 each individual community and the various genres in those
25 communities, including, but not limited to, social services, law
26 enforcement and financial institutions; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
28 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of
29 the existing network of elder abuse task forces in this
30 Commonwealth; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
2 review the structure of each existing elder abuse task force and
3 develop a profile of the current task forces, recognizing that
4 each model is uniquely designed due to the differing political
5 and governmental structures in each jurisdiction as well as the
6 various mechanisms that exist to meet the needs of vulnerable
7 elders; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
9 identify key factors that contributed to the establishment and
10 continued operation of the existing task forces, including, but
11 not limited to, funding mechanisms utilized for operation of the
12 task forces as well as barriers that were overcome in order to
13 achieve the establishment of the task forces; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
15 identify local area agencies on aging service areas that do not
16 currently have multidisciplinary elder abuse task forces,
17 investigate the need to establish such task forces and make
18 recommendations accordingly; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
20 prepare a report of its findings and recommendations and
21 transmit copies of the report to the Aging and Older Adult
22 Services Committee no later than six months after adoption of
23 this resolution.