

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION**No. 948** Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, MURT, READSHAW, MCGEEHAN, BROWNLEE,
BISHOP, DIGIROLAMO, ENGLISH, J. HARRIS, SCHLOSSBERG, DAVIS,
YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, MAHONEY, ROZZI, SAMUELSON, COHEN,
McCARTER, SABATINA, HARHAI, DERMODY, GIBBONS, DeLUCA AND
WHITE, JULY 29, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting that the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
2 conduct a comprehensive review of data maintained by the
3 Department of Education and the Department of Public Welfare
4 on the number of transition-age youth and young adults
5 diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

6 WHEREAS, The Autism census report update in December 2013,
7 using data from the 2011 census and social service databases,
8 indicated that there were approximately 8,395 adults 21 years of
9 age and older with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in 2013 and
10 projects that by 2020 there will be more than 30,000 adults with
11 ASD; and

12 WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2013-2014, an estimated 418 slots for
13 Adult Autism Waivers (AAW) were available and an estimated 146
14 slots for Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) were available;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) reports that it
17 maintains "interest lists" for AAW and ACAP which do not

1 guarantee either a place in line or that services will be
2 received and, in May 2014, there were an estimated 1,200 people
3 on the interest lists; and

4 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
5 receiving some services through the intellectual disabilities
6 service system, Medicaid waiver services administered through
7 the Office of Long-Term Living, mental health services or the
8 Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; and

9 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
10 who are not dually diagnosed with other disabilities and do not
11 meet the eligibility criteria for one of the Medicaid waivers
12 for people with intellectual disabilities and people with
13 physical disabilities or other similar programs and are
14 therefore in need of services administered by the BAS; and

15 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
16 who are found in other State and community service systems
17 including homeless services, State hospitals, the criminal
18 justice system and the correction system; and

19 WHEREAS, There is an unknown number of individuals with ASD
20 not served in any State or community system who are living at
21 home and reliant on aging parents or siblings; and

22 WHEREAS, The Office of Developmental Programs has developed
23 and maintains a comprehensive waiting list for people with
24 intellectual disabilities that categorizes the level of support
25 needed by each individual, the county of residence and if the
26 person resides with an elderly caregiver, however that type of
27 list has not been developed for people with ASD; and

28 WHEREAS, The budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 allocated
29 funding for an additional 1,080 people with intellectual
30 disabilities but only allocated funding for an additional 118

1 people with ASD; and

2 WHEREAS, The proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015
3 allocates funding for an additional 1,100 people with
4 intellectual disabilities but only allocates funding for an
5 additional 100 people with ASD; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives request that the
7 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee conduct a comprehensive
8 review of data maintained by the Department of Education and the
9 Department of Public Welfare on the number of transition-age
10 youth and young adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder;
11 and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
13 issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the
14 Department of Public Welfare and the Bureau of Autism Services
15 and recommend a plan to provide home-based and community-based
16 supports for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders AND ALSO <--
17 ISSUE AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE REPORT TO THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES no later than six months from the passage of
19 this resolution.