
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 143 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY VENKAT, HARKINS, MADDEN, WAXMAN, KINSEY, HILL-
EVANS, HANBIDGE, KHAN, SANCHEZ, PROBST, BRENNAN, CERRATO,
HOWARD, SOLOMON, DIAMOND, SCOTT, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, D. MILLER,
MADSEN, GAYDOS AND O'MARA, JUNE 6, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 6, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19.

3 WHEREAS, COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the
4 SARS-CoV-2 virus and was first discovered in December 2019; and

5 WHEREAS, Most people infected with COVID-19 will experience
6 mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without
7 requiring special treatment, however, some will become seriously
8 ill and require medical attention; and

9 WHEREAS, Older people and those with underlying medical
10 conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic
11 respiratory disease or cancer are more likely to develop serious
12 illness; and

13 WHEREAS, Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become
14 seriously ill or die at any age; and

15 WHEREAS, Former Governor Tom Wolf reported this
16 Commonwealth's first two confirmed cases in March 2020; and

17 WHEREAS, Since the first two confirmed cases, this

1 Commonwealth has experienced stay-at-home orders, mandatory
2 masking, school closures, business closures and restrictions,
3 hospitalizations, deaths of loved ones and financial hardships;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, As of May 3, 2023, this Commonwealth had nearly 3
6 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 and just over 51,000 deaths;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, It is important that the Commonwealth learns from
9 COVID-19 and makes improvements to the Commonwealth's ability to
10 respond to future similar events; and

11 WHEREAS, It is important for the Commonwealth to assess what
12 changes need to be made relating to emergency preparedness,
13 including the role of the Pennsylvania National Guard, public
14 health, the public school system, students, businesses, workers
15 and State and local government agencies in this Commonwealth;
16 therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
18 State Government Commission to conduct a study on the
19 Commonwealth's response to COVID-19; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
21 State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee
22 consisting of, but not limited to, the following individuals to
23 conduct the study on the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19:

24 (1) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development
25 or the secretary's designee.

26 (2) The Secretary of Education or the secretary's
27 designee.

28 (3) The Secretary of Health or the secretary's designee.

29 (4) The Secretary of Human Services or the secretary's
30 designee.

1 (5) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or the
2 secretary's designee.

3 (6) The Secretary of Military and Veterans Affairs or
4 the secretary's designee.

5 (7) The Director of the Pennsylvania Emergency
6 Management Agency or the director's designee.

7 (8) A representative of hospitals and public health
8 systems.

9 (9) A representative of long-term care providers.

10 (10) A representative of nursing home operators.

11 (11) A representative of aging services.

12 (12) A representative of physicians.

13 (13) A representative of osteopathic physicians.

14 (14) A representative of emergency physicians.

15 (15) A representative of registered nurses.

16 (16) A representative of a union for caregivers, nurses
17 and health care professionals.

18 (17) A representative of workers in the emergency and
19 nonemergency ambulance and medical transportation industry.

20 (18) A representative of businesses.

21 (19) A representative of local and independent business
22 owners.

23 (20) A representative of labor councils.

24 (21) A representative of public school boards.

25 (22) A representative of public school teachers.

26 (23) A representative of child-care providers.

27 (24) A representative of nursing home operators.

28 (25) A representative of an organization advocating for
29 individuals who have an intellectual disability or are on the
30 autism spectrum.

1 (26) A representative of counties with a health
2 department.

3 (27) A representative of counties without a health
4 department.

5 (28) A representative of federally qualified health
6 centers.

7 (29) A representative of dentists.

8 (30) A representative of municipal police departments.

9 (31) Representatives from other Commonwealth agencies or
10 other entities that the Joint State Government Commission
11 deems appropriate in conducting the study on the
12 Commonwealth's response to COVID-19.

13 (32) Any other individuals with knowledge and expertise
14 in matters involving the Commonwealth's response to COVID-19;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
17 collaboration with the advisory committee, compile a report
18 that, at a minimum, includes all of the following:

19 (1) A review and analysis of this Commonwealth's
20 response to COVID-19 relating to emergency preparedness,
21 including the role of the Pennsylvania National Guard, public
22 health, the public school system, students, businesses,
23 workers and State and local government agencies in this
24 Commonwealth.

25 (2) Policy recommendations and proposed legislation to
26 implement necessary changes to the laws of this Commonwealth.

27 (3) Any other matters deemed appropriate by the Joint
28 State Government Commission;

29 and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission

1 establish the advisory committee within three months of the
2 adoption of this resolution; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission present
4 its report to the House of Representatives no later than
5 January 1, 2025.