
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 176 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, SANCHEZ, BURGOS, KENYATTA, BROOKS,
SHUSTERMAN, KINKEAD, FRANKEL, BULLOCK, YOUNG, HOHENSTEIN,
CURRY, HERRIN, SIMS AND KRAJEWSKI, MARCH 8, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 8, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study on the nutritional value of food, along with the
3 nutrition-related health of inmates, in State correctional
4 institutions in this Commonwealth and to issue a report of
5 its findings and recommendations to the House of
6 Representatives.

7 WHEREAS, People who are incarcerated have a right to food
8 that is safe, nourishing, appealing to the senses and culturally
9 appropriate; and

10 WHEREAS, People who are incarcerated should have access to
11 food that satiates hunger and promotes physical health and
12 mental well-being; and

13 WHEREAS, People who are incarcerated should have access to
14 food that meets their individual health needs and aligns with
15 their values; and

16 WHEREAS, More than 40,000 individuals are housed in 23 State
17 correctional institutions and a motivational boot camp across
18 this Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, Inmates must depend on the facilities in which they

1 are incarcerated for their nutrition, as well as their health
2 and wellness; and

3 WHEREAS, It is stated policy of the Department of Corrections
4 that the regular master menu and various population menus will
5 be planned based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the
6 Dietary Reference Intakes; and

7 WHEREAS, For every meal, a State correctional institution in
8 this Commonwealth offers a vegetarian entree and special meals
9 to accommodate religious observances; and

10 WHEREAS, Although the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and
11 the Dietary Reference Intakes are intended to protect inmates'
12 health in State correctional institutions, food has been used as
13 a means of punishment and is currently being used for behavior
14 modification; and

15 WHEREAS, In comparison to the general population, a higher
16 rate of inmates report having one or more chronic medical
17 conditions, such as hypertension or diabetes; and

18 WHEREAS, It is vitally important that the nutritional value
19 of food at State correctional institutions in this Commonwealth
20 should be examined, as well as the health conditions of inmates
21 to ensure that they are receiving humane treatment and to bring
22 awareness to their health needs; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
24 State Government Commission to conduct a study on the
25 nutritional value of food, along with the nutrition-related
26 health of inmates, in State correctional institutions in this
27 Commonwealth and to issue a report of its findings and
28 recommendations to the House of Representatives; and be it
29 further

30 RESOLVED, That the study include, at a minimum, the following

1 regarding State correctional institutions in this Commonwealth:

2 (1) a breakdown of the nutritional value of the food
3 served, including the percentage of carbohydrates, fat,
4 protein, minerals and vitamins in each food group;

5 (2) a breakdown of the sources of calcium, calories,
6 carbohydrates, fruits, grains, protein and vegetables
7 provided in each meal served;

8 (3) a breakdown of the number of calories provided for
9 each inmate over the course of three meals per day;

10 (4) an analysis of the nutritional value of the planned
11 master menu, including the extent to which the menu aligns
12 with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Dietary
13 Reference Intakes;

14 (5) an analysis of the nutritional value of the food and
15 beverages made available for sale in the commissary,
16 including the amount of carbohydrates, fat, protein, minerals
17 and vitamins in each item;

18 (6) an analysis of the dietary intake of a
19 representative sample of incarcerated individuals, using a
20 24-hour dietary recall or other established method;

21 (7) an analysis of food quality and palatability in
22 relation to preferences of the incarcerated population;

23 (8) the medical and physical health of inmates; and

24 (9) the prevalence of illness and disease among inmates;

25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the study assess menu options for each of the
27 following populations:

28 (1) general population;

29 (2) vegetarian population;

30 (3) diabetic population; and

1 (4) religious population;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the study include a cost-benefit analysis on
4 the following:

5 (1) providing additional calories on menus while
6 reducing the cost of menu items;

7 (2) replacing food low in nutritional value, such as
8 desserts and extra bread, with food high in nutritional
9 value, such as fruits and vegetables; and

10 (3) replacing high cost and low nutritional value meals
11 with lower cost and high nutritional value meals;

12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the study also include recommendations for
14 legislative action to:

15 (1) increase the nutritional value of inmates' food; and

16 (2) treat health conditions of inmates and take
17 preventive measures to mitigate illness and disease among
18 inmates;

19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be
21 authorized to request information from the Department of
22 Corrections for the study; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
24 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives
25 no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution.