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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 32 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, SCHLOSSBERG, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, HANBIDGE,  
HILL-EVANS, DELLOSO, KINKEAD AND D. WILLIAMS, MARCH 10, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 10, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a  
2 study on the current utilization of poll workers, polling  
3 places, voting compartments and voting machines to determine  
4 the best course of action in order to minimize the time  
5 investment required to vote and ensure that the average time  
6 required to vote does not promote inequities based on  
7 geography, economic status, race, gender or other relevant  
8 factors.

9 WHEREAS, The United States conducts elections unlike any  
10 other country in the world, empowering states to implement  
11 elections by entrusting local officials in more than 10,000  
12 jurisdictions to run elections; and

13 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, all elections are conducted in each  
14 voting precinct by a district election board; and

15 WHEREAS, District election boards consist of a judge of  
16 election, majority inspector of election and minority inspector  
17 of election; and

18 WHEREAS, Poll workers are often volunteers who have received  
19 only a few hours of training; and

20 WHEREAS, The act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as  
21 the Pennsylvania Election Code, stipulates that election

1 districts may not contain more than 1,200 registered electors,  
2 except for good cause shown, and requires each election district  
3 to contain a polling place; and

4 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Election Code requires that each  
5 polling place have at least one voting compartment for every 200  
6 registered qualified electors, or a fraction thereof, and have  
7 no more than one machine for every 350 registered qualified  
8 electors, or a fraction thereof, nor less than one machine for  
9 every 600 registered qualified electors, or a fraction thereof;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, A combination of factors often leads to increased  
12 wait times at polling places, discouraging individuals from  
13 voting and disproportionately affecting poorer citizens with  
14 less flexibility at work; and

15 WHEREAS, In 2018, Black and Latino voters waited in line for  
16 11 minutes on average, compared to just 9 minutes on average for  
17 white voters; and

18 WHEREAS, As the percentage of nonwhite voters in a precinct  
19 increased, so did the time it took to cast a ballot; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2020, some voters saw major delays at polling  
21 places, especially in majority-minority neighborhoods; therefore  
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint  
24 State Government Commission to conduct a study on the current  
25 utilization of poll workers, polling places, voting compartments  
26 and voting machines to determine the best course of action in  
27 order to minimize the time investment required to vote and  
28 ensure that the average time required to vote does not promote  
29 inequalities based upon geography, economic status, race, gender  
30 or other relevant factors; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission study  
2 shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

3 (1) A breakdown of the current utilization of poll  
4 workers, polling places, voting compartments and voting  
5 machines by county and by election district.

6 (2) The average wait time to vote by county.

7 (3) The average wait time to vote based upon geography,  
8 economic status, race, gender and any other factor deemed  
9 relevant by the Joint State Government Commission.

10 (4) What extent changes can be made at the county level  
11 to minimize wait times for in-person voting.

12 (5) What extent changes can be made at the election  
13 district level to minimize wait times for in-person voting.

14 (6) Recommendations for legislative or administrative  
15 action to minimize wait times for in-person voting;  
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
18 authorized to request information from the Department of State  
19 and the Secretary of the Commonwealth for the study on behalf of  
20 the House of Representatives; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
22 authorized to request information from county boards of  
23 elections for the study on behalf of the House of  
24 Representatives; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission be  
26 authorized to request information from district election boards  
27 for the study on behalf of the House of Representatives; and be  
28 it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report  
30 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives

1 no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution.