
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 361 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RAPP, SAYLOR, WARD, PICKETT, KINSEY, MILLARD AND
ROZZI, JUNE 1, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 1, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to conduct a study on alternative
3 education programs in this Commonwealth and to report its
4 findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives.

5 WHEREAS, Alternative education programs serve the purpose of
6 temporarily removing persistently disruptive students in grades
7 6 through 12 from regular school programs; and

8 WHEREAS, A disruptive student is a student in grades 6
9 through 12 who poses a clear threat to the safety and welfare of
10 other students or school staff, who creates an unsafe school
11 environment and whose behavior materially interferes with the
12 learning of other students or disrupts the overall educational
13 process; and

14 WHEREAS, Placement in alternative education programs is to be
15 temporary and should be considered only when severe or
16 persistent behavioral problems require more intensive
17 intervention services and after all other alternatives have been
18 exhausted; and

19 WHEREAS, The goal of alternative education programs is to

1 continue providing educational services along with behavioral
2 interventions to help a student overcome the disruptive behavior
3 and return to the regular school environment; and

4 WHEREAS, Current alternative education programs for
5 disruptive students may not be effective; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
7 State Government Commission to conduct a study on alternative
8 education programs in this Commonwealth; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
10 establish an advisory committee consisting of representatives
11 from the Department of Education, educational organizations,
12 public organizations involved in alternative education issues
13 and other organizations selected by the Joint State Government
14 Commission to consult with in conducting the study; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the study conducted by the Joint State
17 Government Commission include, but not be limited to, the
18 following:

19 (1) The number of disabled students who attend
20 alternative education programs.

21 (2) The number of students who drop out of alternative
22 education programs.

23 (3) The number of students who graduate from alternative
24 education programs.

25 (4) The number of students who are expelled from
26 alternative education programs.

27 (5) The average period of time students with
28 disabilities attend alternative education programs.

29 (6) The method of instruction, effectiveness and typical
30 class schedule of a student in alternative education

1 programs.

2 (7) Statutes, best practices and legislative initiatives
3 in other states concerning students and disabled students in
4 alternative education programs;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission may, as
7 it deems necessary, hold informational meetings to receive
8 testimony from professionals or organizations with expertise in
9 alternative education; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
11 report of its findings and recommendations to the House of
12 Representatives no later than one year after the adoption of
13 this resolution.