THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 43 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY A. DAVIS, SANCHEZ, HILL-EVANS, HARRIS, DEASY, WEBSTER, SCHWEYER AND PISCIOTTANO, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2   conduct a study of the salaries and training of police
3   officers in this Commonwealth.

4   WHEREAS, According to a United States Bureau of Justice

5 Statistics 2008 Census of State and Local Law Enforcement

6 Agencies, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has more than 1,100

7 police forces and employs more than 27,000 officers; and

8   WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has the second-highest number of

9 individual police forces in the country and twice as many as the

10 national average; and

11   WHEREAS, A 2013 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

12 report found that municipalities in this Commonwealth spend

13 approximately $1.3 billion dollars a year on police services,

14 including spending on 986 municipal police departments and 34

15 regional police departments representing 102 municipalities; and

16   WHEREAS, This same report found that more than half of

17 Pennsylvania's 2,500 municipalities have no police department

18 and of those 72% have 10 or fewer officers, and of those more

1   than half have five or fewer full-time officers; and

2   WHEREAS, Municipalities have cited cost as the most

3   significant reason for not forming a police department and loss

4   of control as the reason for not forming regional departments;

5   and

6   WHEREAS, Part-time police officers and officers in small

7   departments may receive lower salaries and less training and

8   therefore must balance multiple jobs and face safety issues and

9   high turnover rates; therefore be it

10   RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the

11   Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of

12   the salaries of law enforcement officers across this

13   Commonwealth, including any disparities between departments, and

14   highlight the salary differences between part-time and full-time

15   officers of police departments; and be it further

16   RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

17   identify the training levels of different departments, comparing

18   the average time full-time and part-time forces take to complete

19   the minimum training and what training is offered to officers

20   beyond minimum training; and be it further

21   RESOLVED, That as legislative initiatives have proposed

22   specialized training on specific issues such as interacting with

23   persons suffering from mental health issues, use of force,

24   school safety and domestic violence, the Legislative Budget and

25   Finance Committee shall study the status of training across

26   police departments on these and other specialized issues beyond

27   the basic training required by statute; and be it further

28   RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

29   assess the rates of turnover of police officers and the factors

30   contributing most to these rates with emphasis on demographic

1   information of the police officers, including race and gender

2   and whether or not they reflect the communities they serve,

3   whether salaries are insufficient and the presence or lack of

4   sufficient training and equipment, including whether the

5   department is using officer safety measures such as body

6   cameras; and be it further

7   RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

8   shall make recommendations for addressing disparities in

9   salaries and training between departments as well as specific

10 measures to eliminate discrepancies in standards between

11 departments with the goal of achieving higher quality services

12 and greater equity Statewide; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

14 report its findings to the General Assembly within 180 days of

15 the adoption of this resolution.