
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 52 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, CIRESI, BERNSTINE AND
KINKEAD, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study of crimes committed on public secondary school grounds
3 throughout this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Schools in this Commonwealth should be a safe haven
5 for teaching and learning, free of crime and violence; and

6 WHEREAS, Any instance of crime or violence at school affects
7 the individuals involved and may also disrupt the educational
8 process; and

9 WHEREAS, Reporting school crime and safety is necessary to
10 ensuring the safety of our students; and

11 WHEREAS, Public school districts, intermediate units, area
12 career and technical schools and charter schools are required to
13 file annual school violence statistics and reports with the
14 Department of Education's Office for Safe Schools no later than
15 July 31 of each year; and

16 WHEREAS, Accurately reported school violence data is used for
17 identification of criminal patterns and early identification of
18 trends and related red flags in schools so that school and

1 safety officials can take appropriate action; and

2 WHEREAS, Is it critical that these reports and discussions
3 are accurate to ensure the public confidence of a public school
4 district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school
5 and charter school; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
7 State Government Commission to conduct a study of crimes
8 committed on public secondary school grounds throughout this
9 Commonwealth and issue a report of its findings and
10 recommendations to the House of Representatives; and be it
11 further

12 RESOLVED, That, at a minimum, the report shall include:

13 (1) information on the current state of school crime and
14 safety across this Commonwealth to ensure safety of our
15 students;

16 (2) topics such as victimization, teacher injury,
17 bullying and electronic bullying, school conditions, fights,
18 weapons, availability and student use of drugs and alcohol
19 and student perceptions of personal safety at school;

20 (3) data on crimes that occur away from school offered
21 as a point of comparison where available;

22 (4) information on the best course of action for
23 reporting school violence statistics and methods of reporting
24 that are not effective; and

25 (5) best practices in utilizing school safety data to
26 make data-driven decisions;

27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part
29 of its study, establish an advisory committee within three
30 months of the adoption of this resolution consisting of all of

1 the following members:

2 (1) The Secretary of Corrections or a designee.

3 (2) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

4 (3) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

5 (4) The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Commission on
6 Crime and Delinquency or a designee.

7 (5) A representative from the Pennsylvania Association
8 of School Administrators.

9 (6) A representative from the Pennsylvania Education Law
10 Center.

11 (7) A representative from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Law
12 Center.

13 (8) A representative from the Pennsylvania School Board
14 Association.

15 (9) Representatives from other departments or agencies
16 of the Commonwealth or other entities that the Joint State
17 Government Commission deems appropriate in conducting the
18 study;

19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
21 collaboration with the advisory committee, submit a report of
22 the Joint State Government Commission's findings, along with any
23 statutory or regulatory recommendations, to the General Assembly
24 within 18 months of the adoption of this resolution.