
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 808 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, DAVIS, EVERETT,
GIBBONS, PHILLIPS-HILL, LONGIETTI, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MILNE,
PICKETT, RADER, ROSS, THOMAS, WARD, WARNER AND READSHAW,
APRIL 12, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 12, 2016

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a task force on voting system technology
2 modernization and creating an advisory committee.

3 WHEREAS, Section 6 of Article VII of the Constitution of
4 Pennsylvania establishes that the selection of voting systems,
5 or voting machines, is a local decision rather than the result
6 of a Statewide mandate; and

7 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Election Code imposes a duty on
8 each county to purchase or lease the voting system or systems to
9 be used within the county and thus the cost of maintaining and
10 replacing voting systems is largely borne by the counties; and

11 WHEREAS, Under the Pennsylvania Election Code, the Secretary
12 of the Commonwealth must examine and approve voting systems to
13 be used in this Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, There are 10 different electronic voting systems
15 used in Pennsylvania's 67 counties; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the National Conference of State
17 Legislatures, most of the voting systems used around the nation

1 were bought with the help of Federal money made available
2 through the Help America Vote Act of 2002; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Conference of State
4 Legislatures, state and county election officials have
5 identified aging voting equipment as one of their top challenges
6 over the next few years; and

7 WHEREAS, Reliable and accurate voting systems are vital to
8 fair and free elections in this Commonwealth and across this
9 nation; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
11 direct the Joint State Government Commission to establish a task
12 force on voting system technology modernization; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the task force consist of one member appointed
15 by the President pro tempore of the Senate, one member appointed
16 by the Majority Leader of the Senate, one member appointed by
17 the Minority Leader of the Senate, one member appointed by the
18 Speaker of the House of Representatives, one member appointed by
19 the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and one
20 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
21 Representatives; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission create
23 an advisory committee, including, but not limited to, the
24 following individuals:

25 (1) the Pennsylvania Commissioner of Elections or his
26 designee;

27 (2) four directors of election recommended by the task
28 force, each from a county that utilizes a different type of
29 voting system;

30 (3) two county commissioners recommended by the County

1 Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, no more than one
2 of whom are from the same political party;

3 (4) a representative recommended by the Committee of
4 Seventy;

5 (5) a representative with expertise in election
6 technology recommended by a college or university in this
7 Commonwealth; and

8 (6) a representative recommended by a disability
9 advocacy organization; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee review all voting
11 systems currently in use in this Commonwealth with a focus on
12 the projected lifetime of each voting system's technology, costs
13 associated with maintaining and repairing each voting system and
14 information regarding user experiences with each voting system;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee gather information
17 regarding voting systems that are used in other states, but that
18 are not currently utilized in Pennsylvania; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee gather information
20 regarding the funding and methods for obtaining voting systems
21 that are utilized in other states; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee review the process
23 currently utilized in Pennsylvania to examine and certify voting
24 systems in this Commonwealth; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee examine potential
26 options for upgrading, modernizing and replacing voting systems
27 and their technology when they become obsolete; and be it
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That the task force and advisory committee submit a
30 report to the General Assembly no later than November 30, 2016,

1 that includes the advisory committee's findings regarding voting
2 systems in use in Pennsylvania, voting systems used in other
3 states, the process currently utilized in Pennsylvania to
4 examine and certify voting systems in this Commonwealth and
5 potential avenues and options for upgrading, modernizing and
6 replacing obsolete voting system technology; and be it further
7 RESOLVED, That the report include recommendations regarding
8 the benefits of various potential voting system options,
9 possible avenues for providing financial assistance to counties
10 and voting system purchasing and contracting alternatives.