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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 263 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, FOLMER, YUDICHAK, VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY,  
MENSCH AND HAYWOOD, JANUARY 28, 2016

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, JANUARY 28, 2016

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a study regarding overtime costs incurred by the  
3 Department of Corrections relating to staffing shortages.

4 WHEREAS, The Department of Corrections budget increased by  
5 3.1% from fiscal year 2013-2014 to fiscal year 2014-2015; and

6 WHEREAS, The department requested an increase of 10% for  
7 fiscal year 2015-2016, which does not include a \$56 million  
8 supplemental appropriation budget request to support unbudgeted  
9 contract costs; and

10 WHEREAS, The department led all other State departments and  
11 agencies for overtime costs from 2010 through 2014; and

12 WHEREAS, The department's overtime spending has increased by  
13 more than 57% between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014; and

14 WHEREAS, The department spent more than \$85 million in  
15 overtime costs in 2014-2015; and

16 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has reduced the inmate level by 400  
17 from 2010-2011 to 2011-2012 and more than 700 from 2012-2013 to  
18 2013-2014; and

1       WHEREAS, It is critical to review staffing levels and  
2 overtime requirements within the department to ensure tax  
3 dollars are being utilized efficiently and effectively;  
4 therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
6 be directed to conduct a study relating to the staffing levels  
7 and mandatory overtime costs within the Department of  
8 Corrections; and be it further

9       RESOLVED, That the study include comparisons to other states'  
10 staffing levels compared to inmate levels and historical trends  
11 relating to inmate population level increases and decreases; and  
12 be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the study include cost comparisons of hiring  
14 new employees within the department compared to paying current  
15 employees overtime; and be it further

16       RESOLVED, That the study incorporate all aspects of staffing,  
17 including salary, health care, retirement, training and  
18 equipment required for each employee; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That in compiling this report the Legislative  
20 Budget and Finance Committee seek input from the department, the  
21 Office of Administration, the Appropriations Committee of the  
22 Senate, the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, the  
23 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, the  
24 Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives and the  
25 Pennsylvania State Corrections Officers Association; and be it  
26 further

27       RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
28 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later  
29 than six months after the adoption of this resolution.