
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 325 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY VULAKOVICH, FARNESE, ALLOWAY, BREWSTER, COSTA,
DINNIMAN, ERICKSON, FERLO, FOLMER, FONTANA, GREENLEAF,
HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, KASUNIC, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, SCHWANK,
SMITH, STACK, WASHINGTON AND WOZNIAK, MARCH 31, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, MARCH 31, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 7, 2014, as "Pennsylvania Health Care
2 Information Technology Awareness Day."

3 WHEREAS, Health care costs represent 17.2% of the gross
4 domestic product nationally; and

5 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of health care transactions are
6 paper based; and

7 WHEREAS, The health care industry invests only 5% of its
8 revenue on information technology and management systems versus
9 10.5% of other data-intensive industries, such as banking; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States spends more than \$2.8 trillion on
11 health care a year, however, some of that spending is
12 unnecessary and represents clinical and administrative waste,
13 theft and excess costs; and

14 WHEREAS, Spending on health care has risen over 40% in the
15 last decade; and

16 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, medical assistance (Medicaid)
17 spending in 2013 was \$20.3 billion; and

1 WHEREAS, A recent study by the Commonwealth Fund has
2 demonstrated that the use of automated clinical decision support
3 systems can result in a net reduction of \$538 per patient per
4 hospital stay; and

5 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine reports there are at least
6 1.5 million preventable adverse drug events per year, each
7 adding more than \$8,700 to the cost of a hospital stay; and

8 WHEREAS, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
9 reports that, between 2011 and 2013, 14,997 providers and
10 facilities received \$692,246,548 in Federal incentive payments
11 to implement electronic health records; and

12 WHEREAS, Health care providers in this Commonwealth report an
13 improved ability to recruit physicians coming out of medical
14 school when advanced information technology is employed at their
15 sites; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2012, Senate Bill 8 was signed into law, enacting
17 the Pennsylvania eHealth Information Technology Act and
18 establishing the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority and
19 a health information exchange; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 7, 2014, as
21 "Pennsylvania Health Care Information Technology Awareness Day";
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the importance of raising
24 awareness of health care information technology and the vital
25 role it plays in helping to save lives and reduce the cost of
26 health care for all Pennsylvanians; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate welcome friends, supporters and
28 members of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems
29 Society (HIMSS) on their visit to the State Capitol to promote
30 better health care in this Commonwealth through broader adoption

1 of advanced health care information technology and management
2 systems on that day.