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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 57 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COSTA, HUGHES, RAFFERTY, BLAKE, FARNESE,  
STREET, BROWNE AND SABATINA, MARCH 24, 2017

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 24, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an  
2 advisory committee on rape and sexual violence prevention  
3 education on postsecondary school campuses to conduct a  
4 comprehensive study of the issue of rape and sexual assault  
5 on postsecondary school campuses and environs and to report  
6 its findings and recommendations to the Senate.

7 WHEREAS, In the United States, women between 18 and 24 years  
8 of age have the highest rate of rape and sexual assault  
9 victimization; and

10 WHEREAS, According to the National Crime Victimization Survey  
11 (NCVS) by the United States Bureau of Justice Statistics,  
12 approximately 17% of student victims of rape and sexual assault  
13 are male, approximately four times the rate of rape and sexual  
14 assault among nonstudent males in the same age group; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the NCVS, fewer than one in five  
16 victims of rape and sexual assault receive assistance from a  
17 victim service agency; and

18 WHEREAS, Similar surveys show even higher rates for rape and  
19 sexual assault than the NCVS; and

20 WHEREAS, According to the NCVS, approximately one in five

1 cases of rape and sexual assault are reported to law enforcement  
2 by student victims; and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately one in ten cases of rape and sexual  
4 assault against a student victim involve the use of a weapon;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, One in five victims do not report the sexual assault  
7 or rape because of fear of reprisal; and

8 WHEREAS, Education on sexual violence prevention has been  
9 found to be effective at identifying and preventing rape and  
10 sexual assault; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth does not require rape and sexual  
12 violence prevention education at any level; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government  
14 Commission to establish an advisory committee, including  
15 representatives of the following entities and organizations and  
16 other individuals and groups as it considers appropriate and  
17 helpful:

18 a national organization of college and university alumnae  
19 whose mission includes advocacy on public policy issues  
20 important to female postsecondary students and the empowerment  
21 of women in business and the community;

22 an association representing college and university police and  
23 campus security departments in this Commonwealth;

24 an organization that works nationally with colleges and  
25 universities primarily to improve campus safety through  
26 training, advocacy and public education;

27 an organization that works nationally with college and  
28 university fraternities and sororities with chapters at  
29 postsecondary institutions in Pennsylvania;

30 no more than two organizations that work on safety and sexual

1 assault awareness and prevention nationally with college and  
2 university fraternities and sororities with chapters at  
3 postsecondary institutions in Pennsylvania;

4 Association of Pennsylvania State College and University  
5 Faculties;

6 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of  
7 Pennsylvania;

8 Lincoln University;

9 Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence;

10 Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape;

11 Pennsylvania Department of Education;

12 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association;

13 Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association;

14 Pennsylvania State Police;

15 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education;

16 The Pennsylvania State University;

17 Pennsylvania State Education Association;

18 Pennsylvania School Boards Association;

19 Pennsylvania School Counselors Association;

20 Temple University; and

21 University of Pittsburgh;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working  
24 with the advisory committee, conduct a comprehensive study of  
25 the issue of rape and sexual assault on postsecondary school  
26 campuses and environs, including reporting systems; and be it  
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the study include an assessment of the issue  
29 of cyber assault on postsecondary school campuses and environs;  
30 and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That the study include the nature, extent,  
2 availability and participation rates relating to rape and sexual  
3 violence prevention education in Pennsylvania schools and  
4 institutions of postsecondary education; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That the study include a process providing for  
6 public input; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission prepare  
8 a report of its findings and include any recommendations for  
9 changes to State statutes and practices concerning rape and  
10 sexual assault to improve safety at postsecondary institutions  
11 and to develop awareness, education and other strategies related  
12 to the issue; and be it further

13       RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission submit a  
14 report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations no  
15 later than 18 months after the adoption of this resolution.