
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 556 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TRUITT, SANTORA, JAMES, SAYLOR, SCHEMEL, MCGINNIS
AND WARD, OCTOBER 21, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 21, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 study and publish an electronic report on the potential
3 savings by school districts that adopt certain operations
4 management practices intended to optimize classroom
5 capacities.

6 WHEREAS, The Constitution of Pennsylvania requires the
7 General Assembly to provide for the maintenance and support of a
8 thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the
9 needs of this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Redistricting is a process that school districts
11 typically use every five to ten years to balance student
12 populations between school buildings within a school district;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, School districts rarely redistrict due to costs and
15 the emotional distress experienced by the community as a result
16 of transferring large percentages of students to different
17 school buildings; and

18 WHEREAS, Logistics professionals in this Commonwealth already
19 use existing technology, such as geographic information system

1 software and optimization computer programs, that add value for
2 their stakeholders; and

3 WHEREAS, The rising cost of education continues to elevate
4 the importance of exploring any and all potential methods to
5 achieve cost savings and improve academic outcomes; and

6 WHEREAS, Greater efficiency could fund full-day kindergarten,
7 provide property tax relief and lead to smaller class sizes; and

8 WHEREAS, Proper balancing of student populations between
9 classrooms helps to ensure equal educational opportunities for
10 students and greater fairness in evaluating the performance of
11 teaching professionals; and

12 WHEREAS, A more granular and dynamic redistricting process
13 that focuses on balancing student populations between classrooms
14 within a school district instead of between school buildings
15 could save money, reduce emotional distress, eliminate
16 unnecessary student transfers, shorten bus rides, ensure equal
17 educational opportunities and ensure fairness in teacher
18 evaluations; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
20 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive, school
21 district-by-school district study of the potential savings that
22 could be realized by each school district in this Commonwealth
23 by moving to a more frequent, flexible and proactive
24 redistricting program that prioritizes balancing of class sizes
25 over school populations; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission publish
27 an electronic report of the results of the study on the
28 commission's publicly accessible Internet website within one
29 year of the adoption of this resolution; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission not

1 publish hard copies of the report; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the report include an estimate of the
3 potential savings for each school district in this Commonwealth;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the report be sortable by school district,
6 student population or the amount of the potential savings; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the report be downloadable by users of the
9 commission's website; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission notify
11 all members of the General Assembly when the electronic report
12 is available for public access.