
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 567 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, HENNESSEY, A. DAVIS, YOUNGBLOOD, ZABEL,
MURT, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, KORTZ, CALTAGIRONE, FREEMAN,
KINSEY, DeLUCA, HOWARD, OTTEN, McCLINTON, ROZZI, SCHWEYER,
FRANKEL, DALEY, HOHENSTEIN, INNAMORATO AND DONATUCCI,
DECEMBER 2, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2 comprehensive study on workforce development, economic and
3 workforce transition and worker displacement and issue a
4 report of its findings and recommendations to the House of
5 Representatives.

6 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has seen and borne the scars of
7 fast-changing and large-scale economic transitions, most
8 recently in the collapse of the steel industry in the 1980s; and

9 WHEREAS, The collapse of the steel industry ended tens of
10 thousands of jobs, destroyed tax bases, shrank school
11 enrollments, forced thousands of families to relocate, shut
12 doors of countless businesses and, in some areas, led to a large
13 increase of State resources to prop up school districts or to
14 develop larger human services networks to support people and
15 families in need; and

16 WHEREAS, In an age of globalization and often imbalanced
17 international trade deals, the coming economic wave of
18 automation, combined with possible changes in green energy

1 production and manufacturing, could seismically alter how
2 Pennsylvania workers, families, businesses and tax bases
3 operate, with an even quicker transition and deeper impact
4 likely to occur in the future; and

5 WHEREAS, It is imperative that Pennsylvania learn from its
6 past and strategically plan for its future by analyzing the
7 capability, fluidity and resources in its related State
8 departments and agencies as to whether they can appropriately
9 and effectively help navigate these challenges or whether a new
10 "Department of Economic and Workforce Transition" should be
11 created in order to better coordinate more seamlessly with
12 individuals, the business community, local governments and
13 needed support agencies to ease transition or minimize the
14 damages seen to occur in previous periods; and

15 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must work with all industry
16 partners and stakeholders to develop bold and sound plans in
17 anticipation of movements in industry and workforce in order to
18 properly assist businesses, workers and communities to build and
19 sustain high-quality, well-paying jobs and thriving communities;
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint
22 State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study on
23 workforce development, economic and workforce transition and
24 worker displacement and issue a report of its findings and
25 recommendations to the House of Representatives; and be it
26 further

27 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission:

28 (1) conduct a comprehensive review and study of all
29 State departments, programs, offices, bureaus, committees and
30 councils, and specifically those under the Department of

1 Labor and Industry, such as the Rapid Response program, that
2 deal with workforce development, economic and workforce
3 transition and worker displacement, to determine the State's
4 capability and effectiveness as currently constituted in
5 assisting workers, families, communities and businesses in
6 navigating transitions in the current climate and over the
7 next 25 years in consideration of the forecasted changes in
8 this Commonwealth's economic needs;

9 (2) conduct a comprehensive review and study of data in
10 the possession of the Department of Human Services and the
11 Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to understand what,
12 if any, correlation exists between increases in need and
13 unemployment or economic insecurity;

14 (3) conduct a comprehensive review and study of data and
15 information in the possession of the Department of Education
16 in relation to the impact of unstable tax bases on school
17 budgeting and programming, and to what degree economic
18 insecurity may have an impact on student achievement; and

19 (4) identify and communicate with any other government
20 or nongovernmental entity deemed necessary to conduct its
21 study under this resolution;

22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission prepare
24 a report of its findings and recommendations that shall, at a
25 minimum:

26 (1) summarize the impact that the collapse of the steel
27 industry had on Pennsylvania workers, families, businesses
28 and communities and detail the subsequent job losses, social
29 service needs, impact on tax rolls and the effectiveness of
30 subsequent retraining programs or other related support

1 initiatives on those most directly impacted;

2 (2) detail Pennsylvania industry sectors most likely at
3 risk of job or wage erosion as a result of further
4 globalization, trade deals, automation and possible changes
5 in energy production or manufacturing;

6 (3) analyze how Pennsylvania's current education system
7 aligns with the predicted employment needs of the future and
8 provide information on the amount of workforce that may need
9 to be retrained due to market forces and regulations, with
10 particular focus on needs, programs or methodologies that are
11 designed to improve workforce participation in historically
12 disadvantaged communities;

13 (4) identify all State programs, offices, bureaus and
14 personnel that deal with economic and workforce transition
15 issues, including existing staffing and funding levels, and
16 their ability to communicate internally and externally to
17 address the needs of an individual, family, business or local
18 government in dealing with current and future economic and
19 workforce transition issues;

20 (5) compile, after consultation with related government
21 staff, industry stakeholders and related union
22 representatives, a list of recommended actions that the
23 Commonwealth should consider in providing support to
24 individuals, families, businesses and communities dealing
25 with economic and workforce transition issues over the next
26 25 years;

27 (6) analyze the potential need or benefit for realigning
28 related State departments and agencies into a single
29 "Department of Economic and Workforce Transition," or other
30 structure, in order to streamline and improve executive

1 action and performance and better maintain and grow
2 sustaining jobs for Pennsylvania families; and
3 (7) contain any information that the Joint State
4 Government Commission determines to be necessary;

5 and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
7 its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives
8 no later than one year after the adoption of this resolution.