THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION
No. 940 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MURT, STEPHENS, ULLMAN, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, CIRESI, PASHINSKI, HOWARD, HELM, BARRAR, MERSKI, GAINEY AND CONKLIN, JULY 8, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JULY 8, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a
2   study of crimes committed on public secondary school grounds
3   throughout this Commonwealth.

4   WHEREAS, Schools in this Commonwealth should be a safe haven

5 for teaching and learning, free of crime and violence; and

6   WHEREAS, Any instance of crime or violence at school affects

7 the individuals involved and may also disrupt the educational

8 process; and

9   WHEREAS, Reporting school crime and safety is necessary to

10 ensuring the safety of our students; and

11   WHEREAS, Public school districts, intermediate units, area

12 career and technical schools and charter schools are required to

13 file annual school violence statistics and reports with the

14 Department of Education's Office for Safe Schools no later than

15 July 31 of each year; and

16   WHEREAS, Accurately reported school violence data is used for

17 identification of criminal patterns and early identification of

18 trends and related red flags in schools so that school and

safety officials can take appropriate action; and

WHEREAS, Is it critical that these reports and discussions are accurate to ensure the public confidence of a public school district, intermediate unit, area career and technical school and charter school; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of crimes committed on public secondary school grounds throughout this Commonwealth and issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, at a minimum, the report shall include:

    (1) information on the current state of school crime and safety across this Commonwealth to ensure safety of our students;

    (2) topics such as victimization, teacher injury, bullying and electronic bullying, school conditions, fights, weapons, availability and student use of drugs and alcohol and student perceptions of personal safety at school;

    (3) data on crimes that occur away from school offered as a point of comparison where available;

    (4) information on the best course of action for reporting school violence statistics and methods of reporting that are not effective; and

    (5) best practices in utilizing school safety data to make data-driven decisions;

and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, as part of its study, establish an advisory committee within three months of the adoption of this resolution consisting of all of

1 the following members:

    2   (1) The Secretary of Corrections or a designee.

    3   (2) The Secretary of Education or a designee.

    4   (3) The Secretary of Human Services or a designee.

    5   (4) The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Commission on

    6   Crime and Delinquency or a designee.

    7   (5) A representative from the Pennsylvania Association

    8   of School Administrators.

    9   (6) A representative from the Pennsylvania Education Law

10   Center.

11   (7) A representative from the Pennsylvania Juvenile Law

12   Center.

13   (8) A representative from the Pennsylvania School Board

14   Association.

15   (9) Representatives from other departments or agencies

16   of the Commonwealth or other entities that the Joint State

17   Government Commission deems appropriate in conducting the

18   study;

19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in

21 collaboration with the advisory committee, submit a report of

22 the Joint State Government Commission's findings, along with any

23 statutory or regulatory recommendations, to the General Assembly

24 within 18 months of the adoption of this resolution.