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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 302 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY BREWSTER, TEPLITZ, MENSCH, FONTANA, SMITH,  
YUDICHAK, KASUNIC, VULAKOVICH AND DINNIMAN, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct a comprehensive cost analysis on the cost efficiency  
3 of the Pennsylvania State Assessment System.

4 WHEREAS, Fair and accurate student and school assessments are  
5 essential to determine the linked questions whether public  
6 school students are performing academically to best prepare them  
7 for a career or further academics in higher education and  
8 whether the public schools in this Commonwealth are educating  
9 their students to meet or exceed the Commonwealth's academic  
10 standards; and

11 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth and the Department of Education  
12 need to be fiscally responsible to the State and local  
13 taxpayers, especially during difficult economic times, to ensure  
14 that the design of the current student and school assessment  
15 system, the Pennsylvania State Assessment System (PSAS), is  
16 effective and efficient; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition to concerns regarding the fairness and  
18 accuracy of the current PSAS, a comprehensive cost analysis of

1 the current PSAS and its component parts, including the  
2 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), the Keystone  
3 Exams, the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA),  
4 and the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), are  
5 needed to determine if the current system for student assessment  
6 is efficient for all costs incurred; and

7 WHEREAS, The comprehensive cost analysis on the efficiency of  
8 the current PSAS needs to include the identification and  
9 examination of all current and future monetary costs incurred in  
10 the development and implementation of the PSAS by the  
11 Commonwealth and this Commonwealth's public school entities; and

12 WHEREAS, While nonmonetary costs incurred under the  
13 implementation of the PSAS are not easily quantified, those  
14 costs need to be identified and examined under the analysis;  
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Legislative Budget and  
17 Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive cost analysis of  
18 the efficiency of the Pennsylvania State Assessment System and  
19 its student and school assessments, which, at a minimum, shall  
20 include an analysis of the following:

21 (1) All current and future monetary costs relating to  
22 the development and grading of the Pennsylvania component  
23 assessments, such as the Keystone Exams, that are or will be  
24 incurred by the Commonwealth or this Commonwealth's public  
25 school entities under the current assessment system.

26 (2) All current and future monetary costs relating to  
27 the implementation of the Pennsylvania State Assessment  
28 System, including its component assessments, such as the  
29 Keystone Exams, that are or will be incurred by the  
30 Commonwealth or this Commonwealth's public school entities

1 under the current assessment system;

2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

4 prepare a report of its findings and conclusions with all

5 supporting documentation; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

7 transmit a copy of the report of its findings and conclusions

8 with all supporting documentation to the Senate within one year

9 of the adoption of this resolution.