



Senate Intergovernmental Operations Committee

Senator Thomas J. McGarrigle
Chairman

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Summary of Senate Resolution 294, PN 1637

Prime Sponsor: Stefano

Summary

This simple resolution directs the Joint State Government Commission (JSGC) to conduct a study examining the use of evidence-based decision making by the Commonwealth. Evidence-based decision making utilizes the best available research and data on programs to guide public officials in determining whether to expand, eliminate or modify certain government programs. The JSGC would issue a report on the study to the Senate within 18 months of the adoption of the resolution.

The study would include the following:

- The use of evidence-based decision making by other state governments.
- A comprehensive review and analysis of the continuum of evidentiary standards used for evidence-based evaluations.
- A comprehensive review and analysis of the existing evidence-based program registries currently available, the standards of evidence used by each and an assessment of the strengths and limitations of each.
- The potential methods that the commonwealth can use to implement evidence-based decision making, including a determination of which agencies and programs are best suited to implement evidenced-based decision making.
- The amount and types of data collected by State agencies and the extent to which the data is shared among State agencies.
- The current methods of data protection employed by State agencies and the most effective methods to protect the privacy rights of the residents of the Commonwealth who provide personal data to State agencies.