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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 225 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, STACK, KASUNIC, WASHINGTON, ARGALL,  
SMITH, SCHWANK, BREWSTER, FARNESE, HUGHES, FERLO, COSTA,  
SOLOBAY, BLAKE, LEACH, TARTAGLIONE, YUDICHAK, FONTANA,  
BOSCOLA, WILEY AND KITCHEN, OCTOBER 15, 2013

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REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, OCTOBER 15, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to  
2 conduct an evaluation of the Department of Public Welfare's  
3 Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program.

4 WHEREAS, Article XIV-B of the act of June 13, 1967 (P.L.31,  
5 No.21) established the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program is a  
8 new approach to the delivery of critically needed human services  
9 at the county level and should be studied; and

10 WHEREAS, The Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program  
11 includes 30 counties; and

12 WHEREAS, There have been concerns about reductions in service  
13 in the counties participating in the pilot program; and

14 WHEREAS, The budget cut of 10% that occurred simultaneously  
15 with the original pilot program may account for some of the  
16 service reductions; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee

1 conduct an evaluation of the Department of Public Welfare's  
2 Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program to study the impact of  
3 the pilot program on each of the human service areas involved,  
4 both on the consumers and on the providers of each service in 15  
5 of the participating counties, including Dauphin County, which  
6 counties represent diversity in geography, demographics, size  
7 and economic characteristics; and be it further

8       RESOLVED, That the evaluation include, but not be limited to,  
9 the following for each of the 15 counties and for each of the  
10 seven human services involved:

11           (1) A detailed description of the reallocation of  
12 funding for each human service compared to the prior year and  
13 compared to the year prior to the implementation of the Human  
14 Services Block Grant Pilot Program.

15           (2) A detailed report on measurable outcomes achieved  
16 for each of the types of service compared to the year prior  
17 to the implementation of the Human Services Block Grant Pilot  
18 Program.

19           (3) A detailed report of start-up and new administrative  
20 costs incurred by State, county or local entities.

21           (4) A detailed report on the impact on the delivery of  
22 each of the human services in the county, including increases  
23 and decreases in provision of services and funding.

24           (5) A detailed report describing any new or innovative  
25 programs implemented as a result of the Human Services Block  
26 Grant Pilot Program, including the cost-effectiveness of such  
27 programs.

28           (6) A detailed report of interviews and evaluations with  
29 the administrators of the seven human services, private and  
30 county, county officials, county commissioners, the

1 Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Drug and  
2 Alcohol Programs.

3 (7) A detailed report of interviews with the block grant  
4 county solicitor regarding potential liability.

5 (8) A detailed report of interviews and evaluations in  
6 the county with providers of all seven human services.

7 (9) A detailed report of interviews and evaluations in  
8 the county with consumer groups for each of the human  
9 services.

10 (10) A detailed report on changes in waiting lists for  
11 each of the human services in the county, including lengths  
12 of time.

13 (11) A detailed report on changes in the provisions of  
14 levels of care and lengths of stay in each of the human  
15 services in the county.

16 (12) A detailed report of any additional costs incurred  
17 by other county government and nongovernmental agencies in  
18 related public services, such as correctional facilities, law  
19 enforcement and public safety agencies and programs.

20 (13) A report on the county's method to ensure the  
21 involvement of consumers and providers in the development of  
22 the plan and review of the draft plan, including allocation  
23 of funding.

24 (14) A comparison of the the Human Services Block Grant  
25 Pilot Program to the human services delivery system that was  
26 in effect in the county prior to the county's participation  
27 in the block grant pilot program;

28 and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee  
30 submit the report no later than March 31, 2015, to the chairman

1 and minority chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee  
2 of the Senate, the chairman and minority chairman of the  
3 Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairman and  
4 minority chairman of the Human Services Committee of the House  
5 of Representatives, the chairman and minority chairman of the  
6 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, the  
7 Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Drug and  
8 Alcohol Programs.