
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 237 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, WILEY, WOZNIAK, TEPLITZ, RAFFERTY,
TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, PILEGGI, MENSCH,
BARTOLOTTA, COSTA, VULAKOVICH, YUDICHAK, FARNESE AND
WILLIAMS, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 13, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee on rape and sexual violence prevention
3 education on postsecondary school campuses to conduct a
4 comprehensive study of the issue of rape and sexual assault
5 on postsecondary school campuses and environs and to report
6 its findings and recommendations to the Senate.

7 WHEREAS, In the United States, women between 18 and 24 years
8 of age have the highest rate of rape and sexual assault
9 victimization; and

10 WHEREAS, About 17% of student victims of rape and sexual
11 assault are male, approximately four times the rate of rape and
12 sexual assault among nonstudent males in the same age group,
13 according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) by
14 the United States Department of Justice; and

15 WHEREAS, Fewer than one in five victims of rape and sexual
16 assault receive assistance from a victim service agency,
17 according to NCVS; and

18 WHEREAS, Similar surveys show even higher rates for rape and
19 sexual assault than the NCVS; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the NCVS, only about one in five cases
2 of rape and sexual assault are reported to law enforcement by
3 student victims; and

4 WHEREAS, About one in ten cases of rape and sexual assault
5 against a student victim involve the use of a weapon; and

6 WHEREAS, One in five victims do not report the sexual assault
7 or rape because of a fear of reprisal; and

8 WHEREAS, Education on sexual violence prevention has been
9 found to be effective at identifying and preventing rape and
10 sexual assault; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth does not require rape and sexual
12 violence prevention education at any level; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
14 Commission to establish an advisory committee, including
15 representatives of the following entities and organizations and
16 such other individuals and groups as it considers appropriate
17 and helpful:

18 a national organization of college and university alumnae
19 whose mission includes advocacy on public policy issues
20 important to female postsecondary students and the empowerment
21 of women in business and the community;

22 an association representing college and university police and
23 campus security departments in this Commonwealth;

24 an organization that works nationally with colleges and
25 universities primarily to improve campus safety through
26 training, advocacy and public education;

27 an organization that works nationally with college and
28 university fraternities and sororities with chapters at
29 postsecondary institutions in Pennsylvania;

30 Association of Pennsylvania State College and University

1 Faculties;

2 Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of
3 Pennsylvania;

4 Lincoln University;

5 Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence;

6 Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape;

7 Pennsylvania Department of Education;

8 Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association;

9 Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association;

10 Pennsylvania State Police;

11 Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education;

12 The Pennsylvania State University;

13 Pennsylvania State Education Association;

14 Pennsylvania School Boards Association;

15 Pennsylvania School Counselors Association;

16 Temple University; and

17 University of Pittsburgh;

18 and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
20 with the advisory committee, conduct a comprehensive study of
21 the issue of rape and sexual assault on postsecondary school
22 campuses and environs, including reporting systems; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the study include the nature, extent,
25 availability and participation rates relating to rape and sexual
26 violence prevention education in Pennsylvania schools and
27 institutions of postsecondary education; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the study include a process providing for
29 public input; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission prepare

1 a report of its findings and include any recommendations for
2 changes to State statutes and practices concerning rape and
3 sexual assault to improve safety at postsecondary institutions
4 and to develop awareness, education and other strategies related
5 to the issue; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission submit a
7 report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations not
8 later than 18 months following passage of this resolution.