
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 213 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY ORIE, ALLOWAY, BROWNE, FARNESE, McILHINNEY,
RAFFERTY AND WAUGH, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, NOVEMBER 25, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of the feasibility and cost savings
3 associated with transferring functions from the Department of
4 Health to other departments or agencies as well as merging
5 the duties of the Department of Health with the Department of
6 Public Welfare.

7 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth faced a \$3.2 billion deficit in
8 fiscal year 2008-2009, and a number of program cuts were
9 achieved in the fiscal year 2009-2010 budget; and

10 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth must continue to explore a broad
11 range of options to achieve additional savings and limit the
12 possibility of future revenue shortfalls; and

13 WHEREAS, It seems prudent to study how best to rightsize
14 various State agencies and stop spending taxpayers' funds on
15 redundant administrative costs, starting with the Department of
16 Health; and

17 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and the Department of
18 Public Welfare both have deputy secretaries, bureaus and offices
19 for children, youth and families, alcohol and drug abuse
20 prevention, hospital operations and medical assistance and

1 managed care; and

2 WHEREAS, There are areas of program duplication and systems
3 design within the Department of Health, including an Office of
4 Health Care Reform; and

5 WHEREAS, There may be some areas within the Department of
6 Health, such as Emergency Medical Services, that could be better
7 served in other State agencies, such as the Pennsylvania
8 Emergency Management Agency; and

9 WHEREAS, Twelve states have a joint department of Public
10 Welfare and Health, and three states have a joint department of
11 Health and Environment; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
13 conduct a study of the feasibility and cost savings associated
14 with transferring functions from the Department of Health to
15 other departments or agencies as well as merging the duties of
16 the Department of Health with the Department of Public Welfare;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
19 explore a broad range of options with regard to how to structure
20 health services to best manage the resources of the
21 Commonwealth; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
23 report its findings, along with recommendations as appropriate,
24 to the Senate within one year of adoption of this resolution.