A RESOLUTION

1. Directing the Joint State Government Commission to study the issue of violence prevention, to establish an advisory committee to conduct a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the underlying causes of violent crime, including mass shootings, and to report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations.

2. WHEREAS, The terrible tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut and other mass shootings in recent years require additional review of the underlying causes of violent crime, including mass shootings, in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation; and

3. WHEREAS, Violent crime affects all Pennsylvanians; and

4. WHEREAS, There are common themes in many of these violent events which require us to examine our laws and procedures relating to violent crime; and

5. WHEREAS, These common themes include mental illness and mental health treatment, keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill, school security, bullying, gang-
related activity, educational issues and cultural influences, including violent video games; and

WHEREAS, In recent sessions, members of the General Assembly have recognized the need to address the issue of violent crime and have introduced numerous bills with that goal in mind; and

WHEREAS, The Senate Judiciary Committee received recommendations relating to dealing with violent crime at hearings held across this Commonwealth; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee of approximately 25 members consisting of public officials and experts on the issue of violent crime, which is balanced so that it encompasses a wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working with the advisory committee, conduct a thorough and comprehensive analysis of violent crime, mass shootings, the issues set forth in this resolution and other related issues as determined by the commission; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working with the advisory committee, study the proposals made to the Senate Judiciary Committee, review other proposals, including best practices that address the issue of violent crime, and, based on this study, develop recommendations best suited for Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission establish a process by which interested members of the public can make suggestions and have input; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the final report include any recommendations to change mental health laws and procedures, INCLUDING THE ACT OF JULY 9, 1976 (P.L.817, NO.143), KNOWN AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT.
PROCEDURES ACT, TO AMEND 18 PA.C.S. CH. 61 SUBCH. A (RELATING TO UNIFORM FIREARMS ACT) OR to implement necessary changes in State statutes and practices, policies and procedures relating to violent crime, including measures to make our schools safer, and to develop awareness, education and other strategies to address issues relating to violent crime; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a report to the Senate with its findings and recommendations not later than December 31, 2013.