

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 53**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MARCH 7, 1996

**By Senators BASSANO, MATHEUSSEN and Girgenti**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** creating a Legislative commission to monitor  
2 the operation and reform of the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, The Legislature finds that significant shortcomings exist in this  
5 State's programs for the incarceration, treatment and safe management of  
6 repetitive and compulsive sexual offenders; and

7 **WHEREAS**, These shortcomings have contributed to the premature release of  
8 dangerous sexual offenders, who have received little or no effective  
9 treatment, into an unsuspecting public, where they have committed  
10 additional heinous crimes, all too frequently against children; and

11 **WHEREAS**, After identifying and analyzing the problems in the State's sexual  
12 offender programs, the Joint Legislative Task Force to Study the Adult  
13 Diagnostic and Treatment Center, has recommended measures to improve  
14 the operation of the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center, as well as the  
15 creation of an ongoing commission to monitor the implementation of its  
16 recommendations; now, therefore,

17  
18 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General  
19 Assembly concurring):

20  
21 1. There is hereby established a commission to be known as the "Adult  
22 Diagnostic and Treatment Center Review Commission." The commission shall  
23 consist of six members to be appointed as follows: two members appointed  
24 by the President of the Senate, no more than one of whom shall be a member  
25 of the same political party; two members by the Speaker of the General  
26 Assembly, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the same political  
27 party; one public member appointed by the President of the Senate, and one  
28 public member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. The  
29 members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be  
30 reimbursed for necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of  
31 their duties. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in  
32 the same manner as the original appointments.

33 2. a. The commission shall organize as soon as practicable following the  
34 appointment of its members and shall select a chairperson and  
35 vice-chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall appoint a

1 secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

2 b. The commission shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself  
3 of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal  
4 department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require and as  
5 may be available to it for its purposes. The commission shall further be entitled  
6 to employ counsel and stenographic and clerical assistance and incur traveling  
7 and other miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary to perform its  
8 duties, within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available for  
9 its purposes.

10

11 3. The commission shall monitor the progress of the Department of  
12 Corrections in carrying out the changes recommended by the Joint Legislative  
13 Task Force to Study the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center and shall  
14 recommend such other changes as in its considered judgment may be required  
15 to effectuate the goals of the task force or to further improve State programs  
16 for the incarceration, treatment and safe management of sexual offenders.

17

18 4. The commission shall annually report to the Legislature and the  
19 Governor concerning the progress of efforts to reform sexual offender  
20 programs and shall include in the report its recommendations for continued  
21 improvements, along with any recommended legislation.

22

23 5. The commission shall expire on the 31st day of December in the fourth  
24 year following its organization.

25

26

27

#### STATEMENT

28

29 The Joint Legislative Task Force to Study the Adult Diagnostic and  
30 Treatment Center (ADTC) was created by ACR 8 of 1994 in the wake of a  
31 series of crimes perpetrated by sex offenders who had been incarcerated at  
32 the center. The task force was charged with examining the effectiveness of the  
33 ADTC in treating and rehabilitating sexual offenders. After completing its  
34 study, the task force issued a series of recommendations for improving the  
35 operation of the ADTC. The task force also urged creation of a commission  
36 to monitor the implementation of its recommendations.

37 This concurrent resolution would establish such a body, to be known as the  
38 "Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center Review Commission." The  
39 commission would consist of six members: two members appointed by the  
40 President of the Senate, no more than one of whom would be a member of the  
41 same political party; two members by the Speaker of the General Assembly,  
42 no more than one of whom would be a member of the same political party;  
43 one public member appointed by the President of the Senate, and one public

1 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

2 The commission would be responsible for monitoring the progress of the  
3 Department of Corrections in carrying out the changes recommended by the  
4 Joint Legislative Task Force to Study the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment  
5 Center and recommending such other changes as in its considered judgment  
6 may be required to effectuate the goals of the task force or to further improve  
7 State programs for the incarceration, treatment and safe management of sexual  
8 offenders.

9 The commission would report annually to the Governor and Legislature.

10 The commission would expire on December 31 of the fourth year following its  
11 establishment.

12

13

14

15

16 Creates commission to monitor ADTC.