



SPONSOR: Rep. K. Williams & Rep. Griffith & Rep. Longhurst
Rep. Michael Smith

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
150th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

REQUESTING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL TO EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF
ADVOCACY AND LEGAL RESOURCES FOR MINORS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF TEEN DATING AND SEXUAL
VIOLENCE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

1 WHEREAS, public and charter schools in Delaware reported 185 incidents of sexual and dating violence offenses
2 to law enforcement and the Department of Education during the 2017-2018 school year; and

3 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that teens who experience dating violence are
4 more likely to exhibit antisocial behaviors, engage in unhealthy behaviors such as tobacco, drug and alcohol use,
5 experience depression and anxiety, and consider suicide; and

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has already enacted significant policies regarding education prevention,
7 detection, and response to the occurrence of teen dating violence in schools, as more needs to be done to effectively
8 promote a holistic solution to teen dating violence; and

9 WHEREAS, organizations that provide direct services to victims of dating violence advocate for teens to have
10 access to the same legal protections from violence as adults; and

11 WHEREAS, a Delaware teen experiencing domestic or dating violence currently is unable to file for a Protection
12 from Abuse Order without the knowledge and consent of a parent.

13 NOW, THEREFORE:

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 150th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, that
15 the General Assembly requests the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council to study the expansion of domestic violence,
16 teen dating violence, and sexual violence advocacy and legal services to minors. The Domestic Violence Coordinating
17 Council shall seek input from the Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware, Delaware Volunteer Legal Services, Child
18 Inc., domestic violence victims, and related organizations or individuals.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is requested to report
20 recommendations to the General Assembly by May 31, 2020. Recommendations are to specify changes to the Delaware
21 Code and Family Court policies and procedures and may specify the costs related to expanding domestic violence advocacy
22 and legal services to minors.

SYNOPSIS

This House Resolution requests the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (“DVCC”) to examine the expansion of domestic violence, teen dating violence, and sexual violence advocacy and legal services to minors. The DVCC may study the issue with assistance from various organizations outlined in the Resolution to provide recommendations to the General Assembly by May 31, 2020.