
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 194 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY PAINTER, SCHLOSSBERG, FRANKEL, COHEN, CALTAGIRONE,
O'BRIEN, MILLARD, DIGIROLAMO, V. BROWN, MAHONEY, J. HARRIS,
GINGRICH, HENNESSEY, HESS, THOMAS, D. COSTA, DENLINGER AND
READSHAW, APRIL 2, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 2, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the Cambodian New Year on April 13, 14 and 15,
2 2013, in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, In 2011, Asian persons represented 2.9% of the
4 population of this Commonwealth; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 50,000 people in this Commonwealth
6 identified as "Other Asian," including Cambodian, among other
7 ethnicities, on the 2010 census; and

8 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of the population in Cambodia are
9 Khmer; and

10 WHEREAS, The Cambodian Khmer New Year, or Chaul Chnam Thmey
11 in Khmer language, which literally means "Enter the New Year,"
12 is one of the most important holidays in Cambodia and celebrates
13 the end of harvesting season; and

14 WHEREAS, Khmer New Year is celebrated for three days in 2013,
15 and the Khmer New Year will fall on April 13, 14 and 15; and

16 WHEREAS, Throughout the Khmer New Year celebration, street

1 corners often are crowded with friends and families enjoying a
2 break from routine, filling their free time with dancing and
3 play; and

4 WHEREAS, Khmer games typically help maintain one's mental and
5 physical dexterity by challenging and strengthening the body's
6 blood pressure, muscle system and brain; and

7 WHEREAS, The first day of Khmer New Year is called Maha
8 Songkran and marks the end of the previous year and the start of
9 a new one; and

10 WHEREAS, To be blessed with good luck for the year, people
11 wash their faces with holy water in the morning, their chests in
12 the afternoon and their feet in the evening, as well as dress
13 and go to temples and shrines to pay homage to Buddha and
14 ancestors; and

15 WHEREAS, The second day of Khmer New Year is called Virak
16 Wanabat and involves Cambodians doing good deeds by donating and
17 contributing to charities; and

18 WHEREAS, Tngay Leang Saka, the third day of Khmer New Year,
19 is the day the new year truly starts and involves Buddhists
20 bathing the Buddha statues with perfumed water, as well as
21 bathing their elderly to get good wishes and advice; and

22 WHEREAS, In the evening, to complete the New Year festival,
23 the Khmer need to perform the last ceremony, called Pithi Srang
24 Preah, which means giving a special bath or a special shower to
25 Buddha statues, monks, elders, parents and grandparents to
26 apologize for any mistakes they have made and to gratify them;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, The Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia
29 has programs for children and youth, civic engagement, health
30 and wellness and family services for the community, including a

1 New Year celebration; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
3 Cambodian New Year on April 13, 14 and 15, 2013, in honor of the
4 Cambodian population in this Commonwealth; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the
6 Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia, 5412 N. 5th
7 Street, Philadelphia, PA 19120.