
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 25 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, GIRAL, HADDOCK, SANCHEZ, GUENST, DIAMOND,
HILL-EVANS, KHAN, NEILSON, FLEMING, VENKAT, PASHINSKI,
WAXMAN, SOLOMON, CERRATO AND GREEN, JANUARY 27, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 27, 2025

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the
2 history of the State song of the Commonwealth, solicit
3 submissions for a new State song and recommend changes to the
4 State song.

5 WHEREAS, During the 1987-1988 legislative session, the chair
6 of the House State Government Committee led a committee tasked
7 with recommending a State song for the Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, The committee was composed of representatives from
9 the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, the Pennsylvania
10 Council on the Arts, professional musicians and members of the
11 public; and

12 WHEREAS, After receiving hundreds of song submissions from
13 the public, the committee selected the song "Pennsylvania" by
14 Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner; and

15 WHEREAS, The act of November 29, 1990 (P.L.598, No.150),
16 referred to as the Official State Song Act, adopted the song
17 "Pennsylvania" as the official State song of the Commonwealth;
18 and

1 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of this Commonwealth to adopt
2 a State song that represents the culture, history, spirit and
3 people of Pennsylvania; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
5 establish the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the
6 history of the State song of the Commonwealth, solicit
7 submissions for a new State song and recommend changes to the
8 State song, which shall not be binding unless enacted by a
9 subsequent act of the General Assembly; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following
11 members:

12 (1) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the
13 Senate;

14 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
15 Senate;

16 (3) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the
17 House of Representatives;

18 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
19 House of Representatives;

20 (5) one representative from the Pennsylvania Music
21 Educators Association;

22 (6) one representative from the Pennsylvania Council on
23 the Arts;

24 (7) one representative from the American Federation of
25 Musicians who, at the time of the formation of the
26 commission, resides in this Commonwealth; and

27 (8) two members of the public appointed by the Governor;
28 and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the commission hold its first meeting within
30 60 days of the adoption of this resolution and meet no less than

1 quarterly thereafter; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That at its first meeting, the commission elect one
3 member to serve as chair of the commission; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the commission has the authority to add
5 additional members to the commission and create subgroups within
6 the commission as it sees fit; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the commission seek comments and submissions
8 from the public on recommendations for a new State song; and be
9 it further

10 RESOLVED, That the commission choose a song, or songs, to
11 recommend to the General Assembly to become the new State song;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission serve without
14 compensation but be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable
15 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission
18 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of
19 Representatives; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the approval of the President pro tempore of
21 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be
22 required to preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission
23 that will entail the expenditure of State funds and approve all
24 expenditures, including expense reimbursement requests of
25 commission members, prior to payment; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That nothing in this concurrent resolution preclude
27 the commission from consulting or seeking the expertise of any
28 individual, nonprofit entity, Commonwealth agency or office or
29 legislative committee of the General Assembly to aid with the
30 selection of a new State song; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the commission issue a final report with its
2 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within 12
3 months of the adoption of this resolution.