
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 396 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY CLAY, YOUNGBLOOD, KIM, HARKINS, P. DALEY,
HAGGERTY, MICOZZIE, COHEN, ROZZI, HENNESSEY, BROWNLEE,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, BIZZARRO, MILLARD, KAVULICH, SONNEY, PARKER,
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LUCAS, GIBBONS, MIRANDA, THOMAS, ROSS, WHITE, BAKER, SWANGER,
CALTAGIRONE, ROCK, MAJOR, EVERETT AND HESS, JUNE 25, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 25, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of August 11 through 17, 2013, as "Child
2 Safety Week" in Pennsylvania, to further the proliferation of
3 knowledge regarding the risks to and preventative measures
4 for the safety of children.

5 WHEREAS, The safety of children in this Commonwealth is of
6 the utmost importance and informing the public of risks and
7 preventative measures is part of ensuring that safety; and

8 WHEREAS, Child injuries, referring to unintentional injuries
9 that occur among children and teens between birth and 19 years
10 of age, are preventable, yet more than 9,000 children died from
11 injuries in the United States in 2009; and

12 WHEREAS, Every four seconds, a child is treated for an injury
13 in an emergency department; and

14 WHEREAS, Every hour, one child dies from an injury, and about
15 one in five child deaths is due to injury; and

16 WHEREAS, Car crashes, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires

1 and falls are some of the most common ways children are hurt or
2 killed; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2009, 4,564 children died from motor vehicle-
4 related injuries, and between 2000 and 2009 there was a 41%
5 increase in the motor vehicle-related injury death rates; and

6 WHEREAS, Teens between 15 and 19 years of age made up 75% of
7 motor vehicle occupant/driver fatalities in 2011, and 54% of
8 high school students reported always wearing a seat belt when
9 riding with someone else, which, when compared with other age
10 groups, is the lowest rate of seat belt use; and

11 WHEREAS, Children in low-income, densely populated, urban
12 residential areas are at a substantially higher risk of
13 pedestrian-related injury, and children in lower-income
14 neighborhoods are up to 5.7 times more likely to be injured as
15 pedestrians than children in other neighborhoods; and

16 WHEREAS, To prevent motor vehicle-related deaths, seat belts,
17 child safety seats and booster seats that are correct for a
18 child's age and weight should always be used, in addition to the
19 use of safe-driving agreements or contracts with teens; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1,160 children died from suffocation, and
21 between 2000 and 2009, there was a 30% increase in the
22 suffocation death rate; and

23 WHEREAS, Eighty-eight percent of children who suffocated were
24 four years of age or younger; and

25 WHEREAS, Suffocation is the number one cause of unintentional
26 injury-related death for children under one year of age; and

27 WHEREAS, To prevent suffocation, parents and other caregivers
28 must ensure that infants sleep alone, placed on their backs, on
29 a firm surface, and must be sure that cribs meet safety
30 standards and loose bedding or soft toys in the crib are

1 avoided; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2009, 983 children died due to drowning, and
3 between 2000 and 2009, there was a 28% decrease in the drowning
4 death rate; and

5 WHEREAS, Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related
6 death among children between one and four years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, To further reduce the number of children dying from
8 drowning, measures can be taken like learning to swim, using
9 four-sided fences with self-closing and self-latching gates
10 around the pool and watching children closely when they are in
11 or around water; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition, other precautions to reduce the risk of
13 entrapment include the use of specially made drain covers,
14 safety vacuum-release systems, multiple filter pumps and other
15 pressure-venting pool filter mechanisms; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2009, 824 children died from poisoning, and
17 between 2000 and 2009 there was an 80% increase in the poisoning
18 death rate, largely due to prescription drug overdoses; and

19 WHEREAS, Eighty-nine percent of children who died from a
20 poisoning were between 15 and 19 years of age, making poisoning
21 the second leading cause of injury-related death among children
22 between 15 and 19 years of age after motor vehicle-related
23 deaths; and

24 WHEREAS, For every ten poison exposures in children,
25 approximately nine occur in the home, and half of the 2 million
26 calls to poison control centers in 2011 were for exposures and
27 ingestion among children five years of age or younger; and

28 WHEREAS, To prevent poisoning, parents and caregivers should
29 keep medicine away from children and teens and keep cleaning
30 solutions and other toxic products in original packaging and

1 where children cannot get to them; and

2 WHEREAS, In 2009, 391 children died from fires or burns, and
3 between 2000 and 2009, there was a 45% decrease in the fire/burn
4 death rate; and

5 WHEREAS, Scald burns, caused by hot liquids or steam, are
6 more common types of burn-related injuries among young children,
7 compared to contact burns, caused by direct contact with fire,
8 which are more common among older children; and

9 WHEREAS, To further reduce the number of children dying from
10 fires and burns, parents and caregivers should use smoke alarms
11 where people sleep and on every level of the home and test them
12 monthly, as well as create and practice a family fire escape
13 plan and install a home fire sprinkler system, if possible; and

14 WHEREAS, Working smoke alarms reduce the chance of death in a
15 reported home fire by 50%; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2009, 151 children died from falls, and between
17 2000 and 2009, there was a 19% decrease in the fall death rate;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Fifty-one percent of children who died in falls were
20 between 15 and 19 years of age; and

21 WHEREAS, To further reduce the number of children dying from
22 falls, a soft landing surface on playgrounds, such as sand or
23 wood chips, not dirt or grass, can be used and protective rails
24 should be used on bunk beds and loft beds, and children should
25 use protective gear, like a helmet, during sports and
26 recreation; and

27 WHEREAS, Child safety also includes other concerns, like the
28 prevention of backpack-related injuries; bullying; bicycle,
29 skate and skateboard injuries; television tip-overs and other
30 home safety issues, as well as encouraging pedestrian, sports

1 and recreation and swimming and boating safety; and

2 WHEREAS, Each month, three out of four children in the United
3 States ride a bicycle and more children between 5 and 14 years
4 of age are seen in emergency departments for injuries related to
5 biking than any other sport; and

6 WHEREAS, Helmet use is the single most effective way to
7 reduce bicycle-related fatalities, and helmets reduce the risk
8 of head injury by at least 45%, brain injury by 33%, facial
9 injury by 27% and fatal injury by 29%, with some studies showing
10 much higher reductions; and

11 WHEREAS, Apart from the automobile, bicycles are tied to more
12 childhood injuries than any other consumer product; and

13 WHEREAS, More than 38 million children and adolescents
14 participate in sports each year in the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, More than 2.6 million children 19 years of age or
16 younger were seen in emergency departments for injuries related
17 to sports and recreation, which includes sports such as football
18 and basketball, as well as activities such as playing on a
19 playground, scooter-riding and trampolining; and

20 WHEREAS, Most organized sports-related injuries, 62%, occur
21 during practice rather than games; and

22 WHEREAS, Every adult plays an important role in addressing
23 bullying and making schools safe, caring, respectful places for
24 children; and

25 WHEREAS, The number of children dying from injury dropped
26 nearly 30% over the last decade, but injury is still the number
27 one cause of death among children; and

28 WHEREAS, There are many steps that can be taken to prevent
29 child injury to keep our children safe; and

30 WHEREAS, Being a good role model, by wearing a seat belt,

1 using a helmet and following other safety tips, is an important
2 first step to keeping children safe; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is one of the states with the lowest
4 rates of child injury death, 4 to 10.9 per 100,000 children
5 between birth and 19 years of age, but there is still more that
6 we can do; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
8 week of August 11 through 17, 2013, as "Child Safety Week" in
9 Pennsylvania, to further the proliferation of knowledge
10 regarding the risks to and preventative measures for the safety
11 of children.