
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 452 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, DiGIROLAMO, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT,
DAVIS, ROZZI, HENNESSEY, SONNEY, LONGIETTI, READSHAW,
CALTAGIRONE, KORTZ, V. BROWN, WATSON, FREEMAN, MILLARD,
D. COSTA, BOBACK, GABLER, SCHWEYER, BIZZARRO, FARRY, THOMAS,
GILLEN, MARSICO, BURNS AND DUSH, AUGUST 24, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 24, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing the month of September 2017 as "Newborn Screening
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every
4 newborn for certain harmful or potentially fatal conditions that
5 are not otherwise apparent at birth; and

6 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns
7 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant
8 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

9 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that
10 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and
11 evaluation; and

12 WHEREAS, Every year nearly 4 million newborns in the United
13 States and more than 150,000 newborns in Pennsylvania undergo
14 newborn screening; and

15 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers
16 for Disease Control and Prevention's list of Ten Great Public

1 Health Achievements in the 20th Century; and

2 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States
3 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the act of
5 September 9, 1965 (P.L.497, No.251), known as the Newborn Child
6 Testing Act, by requiring physicians, hospitals and other
7 institutions to administer tests or cause tests to be
8 administered for PKU and other metabolic diseases upon infants;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the Newborn Child
11 Testing Act has been amended three times, most recently with Act
12 148 of 2014, which expanded the list of required diseases for
13 testing from 6 to 12; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania
15 provides newborn hearing screening, testing for critical
16 congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and services
17 for other diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-up
19 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of
20 Health; and

21 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in
22 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with
23 several partner organizations, to shine a national spotlight on
24 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe the month
26 of September 2017 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" in
27 Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the
29 importance of awareness of newborn screening and encourage
30 parents and future parents to educate themselves and take the

1 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.