
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 552 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, MAHER, MARSICO, KORTZ, PASHINSKI, DEASY,
DRISCOLL, WARREN, MACKENZIE, BAKER, DONATUCCI, DIGIROLAMO,
MILLARD, DEAN, D. COSTA, NEILSON, THOMAS, WATSON, KINSEY,
RYAN, COX, KAUFFMAN, BARRAR, JAMES, SAMUELSON, HELM,
CALTAGIRONE, MURT, A. HARRIS, MENTZER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, WARD,
STAATS, MATZIE, LONGIETTI, SCHLOSSBERG, GROVE, EVERETT,
V. BROWN, CORR, GOODMAN, MILNE, ROEBUCK, DeLUCA, BIZZARRO,
GILLEN, SCHWEYER, B. MILLER, ROZZI AND GABLER,
OCTOBER 3, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 3, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating December 15, 2017, as "Bill of Rights Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The first 10 amendments to the Constitution of the
4 United States are collectively known as the Bill of Rights; and

5 WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights became effective as amendments to
6 the Constitution of the United States on December 15, 1791; and

7 WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights protects the rights of people and
8 limits the powers of government; and

9 WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights reads as follows:

10 1. Congress shall make no law respecting an
11 establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise
12 thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;
13 or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to
14 petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

1 2. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the
2 security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and
3 bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

4 3. No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in
5 any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of
6 war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

7 4. The right of the people to be secure in their
8 persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable
9 searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants
10 shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or
11 affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be
12 searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

13 5. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or
14 otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or
15 indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the
16 land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual
17 service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person
18 be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy
19 of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case
20 to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life,
21 liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall
22 private property be taken for public use, without just
23 compensation.

24 6. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy
25 the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury
26 of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been
27 committed, which district shall have been previously
28 ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and
29 cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses
30 against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining

1 witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel
2 for his defense.

3 7. In suits at common law, where the value in
4 controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial
5 by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury,
6 shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United
7 States, than according to the rules of the common law.

8 8. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive
9 fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

10 9. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain
11 rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others
12 retained by the people.

13 10. The powers not delegated to the United States by the
14 Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are
15 reserved to the States respectively, or to the people;

16 and

17 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to honor the freedoms provided to
18 the people by the Bill of Rights; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
20 December 15, 2017, as "Bill of Rights Day" in Pennsylvania.