
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 564 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, KEPHART, VENKAT, KENYATTA, FLICK,
STENDER, CAUSER, SMITH, BERNSTINE, PICKETT, SCHLOSSBERG,
COOK, BANTA, MENTZER, GALLAGHER, ZIMMERMAN AND KAUFFMAN,
OCTOBER 21, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 21, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 14, 2024, as "William Penn Day" in
2 Pennsylvania in honor of the 380th birthday of Pennsylvania's
3 Founding Father, William Penn.

4 WHEREAS, William Penn was born October 14, 1644, in London,
5 England; and

6 WHEREAS, William Penn was an English Quaker leader and
7 advocate of religious freedom who oversaw the founding of this
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, William Penn proposed a mass emigration of English
10 Quakers to North America where he purchased the colonial
11 province of West Jersey; and

12 WHEREAS, King Charles II granted a charter to William Penn,
13 making him the world's largest private nonroyal landowner, with
14 more than 45,000 square miles; and

15 WHEREAS, William Penn first called the area "New Wales" and
16 then "Sylvania" which is Latin for "forests" or "woods"; and

17 WHEREAS, King Charles II later changed the name of the area

1 to "Pennsylvania"; and

2 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1681, King Charles II signed the
3 Pennsylvania Charter, which authorized William Penn as
4 proprietor over the province for the next three quarters of a
5 century; and

6 WHEREAS, William Penn established the city of Philadelphia
7 and created a government that would embody his Quaker ideas; and

8 WHEREAS, Presiding over the first Assembly, William Penn saw
9 the government of the "lower counties" united with that of
10 Pennsylvania and the Frame of Government incorporated in the
11 Great Law of the province; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
13 14, 2024, as "William Penn Day" in Pennsylvania in honor of the
14 380th birthday of Pennsylvania's Founding Father, William Penn;
15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
17 Pennsylvanians to honor the life and legacy of William Penn.