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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 971 Session of  
2014

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INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, MAHER, COHEN, O'BRIEN, TOEPEL, NEILSON, BIZZARRO, BLOOM, MICOZZIE, SACCONE, MIRABITO, BISHOP, ENGLISH, McNEILL, SONNEY, P. DALEY, McGEEHAN, KOTIK, JAMES, KIM, MILLARD, BAKER, THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, SWANGER, LUCAS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, LONGIETTI, COX, BENNINGHOFF, DAY, DIGIROLAMO, BARRAR, SCHLOSSBERG, GILLEN, O'NEILL, HARHART, YOUNGBLOOD, MAJOR, GOODMAN, W. KELLER, MENTZER, FLECK, KAVULICH, STERN, MURT, ROCK, MARSHALL, FARINA, GRELL, PICKETT, PAINTER, EVERETT, WATSON, MAHONEY, GINGRICH, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, McCARTER, C. HARRIS, GROVE, DeLUCA AND VEREB, SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

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A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 223rd birthday of the United States Constitutional  
2 Bill of Rights on December 15, 2014.

3 WHEREAS, The first ten 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

1 petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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

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

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

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

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

1 against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining  
2 witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel  
3 for his defense.

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

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

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

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

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

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and  
21 recognize the 223rd birthday of the United States Constitutional  
22 Bill of Rights on December 15, 2014.