
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 135 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, PENNYCUICK, COLLETT, HAYWOOD,
CAPPELLETTI, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, HUGHES,
PHILLIPS-HILL, SCHWANK, KANE AND COSTA, JUNE 23, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 23, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 19, 2023, as "Korean-American Citizenship Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The influence of naturalized or natural-born
4 citizens of Korean-American heritage may be observed in all
5 facets of American life, from politics to industry,
6 entrepreneurship to volunteerism and to the arts and education;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, On June 19, 1890, Philip Jaisohn (Soh, Jaipil), a
9 Korean political refugee, became the first Korean immigrant to
10 acquire United States citizenship and establish as a pioneer for
11 the Korean-American history that can be celebrated by all Korean
12 Americans, particularly by our younger generation who does not
13 have an opportunity to learn Asian-American history in their
14 school systems; and

15 WHEREAS, The year 2023 marks the 133rd anniversary of the
16 first United States citizenship granted to a Korean American;
17 and

1 WHEREAS, Korean Americans will come together to celebrate
2 June 19 as "Korean-American Citizenship Day"; and

3 WHEREAS, Korean-American citizens live throughout the United
4 States and are part of a vibrant, growing Korean-American
5 community in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, The Korean-American community is making important
7 contributions in distinguished career fields such as law,
8 medicine, business, education, architecture and the arts; and

9 WHEREAS, Korean Americans generate economic vitality to the
10 fabric of the United States and the global marketplace in
11 government, for-profit or not-for-profit business and academic
12 communities; and

13 WHEREAS, Jaisohn, a noted champion of the Korean Independence
14 Movement in America, resided in Media, making Philadelphia a
15 central overseas base for supporting Korean independence; and

16 WHEREAS, Jaisohn established the Korean Information Bureau,
17 publishing the *Korea Review*, for the cause of political and
18 religious freedom of Korea and the Far East; and

19 WHEREAS, Inspired by the First and Second Continental
20 Congress of the United States, Jaisohn, Syngman Rhee, the first
21 President of the Republic of Korea, and Henry Han Kyong Chung
22 organized the First Korean Congress in Philadelphia, where they
23 proclaimed Korean Declaration of Independence from April 14 to
24 April 16, 1919; and

25 WHEREAS, Jaisohn and Reverend Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins founded
26 the League of Friends of Korea that was organized in 21 American
27 cities, as well as in London and Paris, numbering 25,000 members
28 to educate the general public and community and government
29 leaders about the aspirations of Korean people on the
30 independence for Korea; and

1 WHEREAS, First-generation Korean immigrants established
2 America as a new homeland for their children and future
3 generations of Korean Americans; and

4 WHEREAS, Korean Americans have made history by winning
5 elections as naturalized citizens or natural born citizens
6 throughout our Commonwealth and country in Federal, State and
7 local levels of political office; and

8 WHEREAS, Korean Americans celebrate June 19 as "Korean-
9 American Citizenship Day" to commemorate the first step of their
10 long and prosperous journey to United States citizenship;
11 therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate June 19, 2023, as
13 "Korean-American Citizenship Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate support the goals and ideals of
16 "Korean-American Citizenship Day" and promote immigrants to
17 become naturalized citizens and active civic participants; and
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate the first naturalization
20 of Korean-American Philip Jaisohn in 1890; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all Americans to observe
22 "Korean-American Citizenship Day" to celebrate all naturalized
23 Korean Americans and appreciate their invaluable contributions
24 to this Commonwealth and our country; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor and recognize the 133rd
26 anniversary of the first United States citizenship granted to
27 the Korean immigrants of the United States.