

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 216 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, JANUARY 2, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JANUARY 2, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 215th anniversary of the Pennsylvania Bible  
2 Society.

3 WHEREAS, In the early 19th century, the Second Great  
4 Awakening began in America; and

5 WHEREAS, Bibles were printed and distributed to citizens to  
6 give them access to the Bible in printings that were funded by  
7 America's Founding Fathers such as Thomas Jefferson, John  
8 Hancock, Samuel Chase, James Wilson, George Reed, John  
9 Dickinson, Gunning Bedford, Alexander Hamilton, Jared Ingersoll,  
10 Thomas Mifflin and John Lansing; and

11 WHEREAS, On November 10, 1808, Robert Ralston wrote a letter  
12 to his friend Josiah Roberts telling of his desire to start a  
13 Bible Society in America; and

14 WHEREAS, On December 12, 1808, the Bible Society had its  
15 first formal meeting; and

16 WHEREAS, The Bible Society switched its name to the Bible  
17 Society of Philadelphia and published the first Bible printed in  
18 the United States from stereotype plates in 1812 and produced

1 17,375 Bibles and New Testaments; and

2 WHEREAS, Because of the burgeoning growth of regional bible  
3 societies, a National Bible Society was founded in 1816; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1840, the Bible Society of Philadelphia became  
5 the Pennsylvania Bible Society; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1982, the Pennsylvania Bible Society, in  
7 cooperation with other bodies, prepared a commemorative booklet  
8 to honor the tercentenary of William Penn's arrival in  
9 Philadelphia and distributed one million copies of the "Light  
10 for All People" scripture throughout this Commonwealth within a  
11 one-year period; and

12 WHEREAS, The mission of the Pennsylvania Bible Society is to  
13 distribute Holy Scripture without note or comment to all who  
14 want to hear it, at an affordable price or free of charge to  
15 those unable to pay; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate celebrate the 215th anniversary of  
17 the Pennsylvania Bible Society.