

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 240 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY TARTAGLIONE, KANE, PHILLIPS-HILL, KEARNEY, STREET, FONTANA, MARTIN, HAYWOOD, HUGHES, DILLON, SCHWANK, CAPPELLETTI, SANTARSIERO, BROWN, PENNYCUICK, COMMITTA, J. WARD, MASTRIANO AND COSTA, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2024 as "Disabilities Awareness  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On October 27, 1955, the Pennsylvania General  
4 Assembly passed the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, which  
5 prohibited discrimination in the areas of employment, housing  
6 and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, familial  
7 status, religious creed, ancestry, handicap or disability, age,  
8 sex and national origin; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 26, 1973, the Congress of the United  
10 States passed the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which was the  
11 precursor to the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act  
12 of 1990, and prohibited the Federal Government, as an employer,  
13 from discriminating against qualified individuals with  
14 disabilities; and

15 WHEREAS, On July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed  
16 into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which  
17 served as the world's first comprehensive civil rights law for

1 individuals with disabilities; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and  
3 Prevention, nearly 1 in 4 adults, or approximately 61 million  
4 adults, in the United States have a disability and, in this  
5 Commonwealth, approximately 26%, or an estimated 2.7 million  
6 adults, have a disability; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the World Bank, people with  
8 disabilities are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic  
9 outcomes such as less education, poorer health outcomes, lower  
10 levels of employment and higher poverty rates; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the United States Bureau of Labor  
12 Statistics, only 21.3% of working-age Americans with a  
13 disability are employed as compared to 65.4% of working-age  
14 Americans without a disability; and

15 WHEREAS, This presents a quality-of-life issue since the  
16 estimated poverty rate of working-age individuals with  
17 disabilities in this Commonwealth was 28% as compared to 9.4%  
18 for working-age individuals without a disability; and

19 WHEREAS, Although the act of fostering awareness about the  
20 issue of this Commonwealth's disabled population is important,  
21 the real objective is to ensure that Pennsylvanians with  
22 disabilities receive the dignity, respect and accommodations  
23 that they deserve; and

24 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to recognize the  
25 prevalence of the systemic inequities that exist within our  
26 society pertaining to the treatment of our residents with  
27 disabilities, as well as to acknowledge the many invaluable  
28 efforts that have been made throughout the history of our nation  
29 to institute civil protections for all Americans; therefore be  
30 it

1       RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of March 2024  
2 as "Disabilities Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it  
3 further

4       RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all Pennsylvanians to  
5 learn about the many unique challenges confronting this  
6 Commonwealth's residents who are disabled and assume the task of  
7 fostering a greater degree of awareness and education regarding  
8 this critically important subject.