
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 257 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY DUSH, PHILLIPS-HILL, HUTCHINSON AND J. WARD,
APRIL 5, 2024

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 5, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2024 as "Faith Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The United States of America was born of the
4 unanimous declaration that we are "endowed by [our] Creator with
5 certain unalienable Rights," based on "the Laws of Nature and of
6 Nature's God," "appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world,"
7 and acknowledging our "reliance on the protection of divine
8 Providence"; and

9 WHEREAS, Religious freedom is known as America's first
10 freedom, as laid out in the Establishment Clause and the Free
11 Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution of
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, The freedom of speech guaranteed by the First
14 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States also supports
15 America's unique focus on freedom of expression, including in
16 matters of faith; and

17 WHEREAS, Our motto "In God We Trust" further emphasizes the
18 importance of faith in our nation's founding; and

1 WHEREAS, From our first president to the last, we have
2 acknowledged America's faith, with President George Washington
3 recognizing "it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the
4 providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for
5 his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor,"
6 and President Joe Biden most recently acknowledging Thanksgiving
7 as a "time to reflect on our many blessings from God, this
8 Nation, and each other"; and

9 WHEREAS, America's Judeo-Christian founding promotes
10 religious diversity and tolerance; and

11 WHEREAS, Religious liberty serves to strengthen our country's
12 appreciation of all peoples, regardless of faith; and

13 WHEREAS, Eternal diligence is needed to preserve religious
14 freedom; and

15 WHEREAS, Attacks on religious liberty and people of faith
16 continue to plague our nation, with some religious charities
17 even being forced to betray the tenets of their faith in order
18 to participate in certain government programs; and

19 WHEREAS, Many seek to criminalize religious beliefs in
20 certain controversial areas; and

21 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth's founder William Penn said "No
22 people can be truly happy, though under the greatest enjoyments
23 of civil liberties, if abridged of the freedom of their
24 consciences as to their religious profession and worship"; and

25 WHEREAS, Gouverneur Morris, a representative of this
26 Commonwealth at the constitutional convention said, "There must
27 be religion. When that ligament is torn, society is disjointed
28 and its members perish...[T]he most important of all lessons is
29 the denunciation of ruin to every state that rejects the
30 precepts of religion"; and

1 WHEREAS, Benjamin Rush, a representative of this Commonwealth
2 at the constitutional convention said, "I do not believe that
3 the Constitution was the offspring of inspiration, but I am as
4 satisfied that it is as much the work of a Divine Providence as
5 any of the miracles recorded in the Old and New Testament"; and

6 WHEREAS, Religious organizations in America have a rich
7 history of charitable engagement in helping the sick, poor and
8 afflicted; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of April 2024
10 as "Faith Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage all residents of this
12 Commonwealth to share their faiths freely and openly and engage
13 in public displays and celebrations, including prayer and
14 expressions of thanksgiving, during the month of April.