
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 343 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, BROWNE, PHILLIPS-HILL,
SANTARSIERO, FARNESE, TARTAGLIONE, COSTA, STEFANO, BREWSTER,
STREET AND SCHWANK, JUNE 30, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 30, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 3, 2020, as "Tardive Dyskinesia
2 Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Many people with serious, chronic mental illness,
4 such as schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders,
5 bipolar disorder or severe depression require treatment with
6 medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents
7 (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

8 WHEREAS, While ongoing treatment with these medications can
9 be very helpful and even lifesaving, it can also lead to Tardive
10 Dyskinesia (TD); and

11 WHEREAS, Many people who have gastrointestinal disorders,
12 including gastroparesis, nausea and vomiting, also require
13 treatment with DRBA's; and

14 WHEREAS, Treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with DRBAs
15 can be very helpful, but can lead to Tardive Dyskinesia for many
16 patients; and

17 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is

1 characterized by random, involuntary and uncontrolled movements
2 of different muscles in the face, trunk and extremities; and

3 WHEREAS, In some cases, people with Tardive Dyskinesia may
4 experience movement of the arms, legs, fingers and toes or it
5 may affect the tongue, lips and jaw; and

6 WHEREAS, In other cases, symptoms may include swaying
7 movements of the trunk or hips and may impact the muscles
8 associated with walking, speech, eating and breathing; and

9 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia can develop months, years or
10 decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they
11 have discontinued use of those medications; and

12 WHEREAS, Not everyone who takes a DRBA develops TD, but if it
13 develops it is often permanent; and

14 WHEREAS, Common risk factors for Tardive Dyskinesia include
15 advanced age and alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Postmenopausal women and people with a mood disorder
18 are also at higher risk of developing Tardive Dyskinesia; and

19 WHEREAS, A person is at higher risk for TD after taking DRBAs
20 for three months or longer, but the longer the person is on
21 these medications, the higher the risk of developing Tardive
22 Dyskinesia; and

23 WHEREAS, Studies suggest that the overall risk of developing
24 Tardive Dyskinesia is between 10% and 30%; and

25 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 500,000 Americans
26 suffer from Tardive Dyskinesia; and

27 WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance for Mental
28 Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term
29 treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience
30 Tardive Dyskinesia; and

1 WHEREAS, Years of difficult and challenging research have
2 resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs with two new
3 treatments for Tardive Dyskinesia approved by the United States
4 Food and Drug Administration; and

5 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is often unrecognized and
6 patients suffering from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA
9 medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric
10 Association (APA); and

11 WHEREAS, Patients suffering from Tardive Dyskinesia often
12 suffer embarrassment due to abnormal and involuntary movements,
13 which leads them to withdraw from society and increasingly
14 isolate themselves as the disease progresses; and

15 WHEREAS, Caregivers of patients with Tardive Dyskinesia face
16 many challenges and are often responsible for the overall care
17 of the TD patient; and

18 WHEREAS, The Senate can raise awareness of Tardive Dyskinesia
19 in the public and medical community; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of May 3, 2020,
21 as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be
22 it further

23 RESOLVED, That each individual in Pennsylvania and the United
24 States be encouraged to become better informed about and aware
25 of Tardive Dyskinesia.