
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 373 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY KANE, FONTANA, COLLETT, HAYWOOD, BARTOLOTTA,
COMITTA, BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER AND COSTA,
OCTOBER 21, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 21, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2022 as "Good Samaritan Law
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The year 2021 was an especially challenging and
4 dangerous year for those with substance use disorders; and

5 WHEREAS, On August 31, 2022, "Overdose Awareness Day" was
6 observed on the front steps of the Pennsylvania State Capitol;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, This year, "Overdose Awareness Day" took on new
9 significance because in 2021 there was a 15% increase in drug
10 overdose deaths nationwide and a 13% increase in deaths from
11 synthetic opioids according to the Centers for Disease Control
12 and Prevention (CDC); and

13 WHEREAS, The CDC and the Pennsylvania Department of Health
14 reported 5,341 drug overdose deaths in this Commonwealth last
15 year, an increase of 3% from 5,172 drug overdose deaths in 2020;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, A portion of these tragic deaths could be prevented

1 by utilizing Act 139 of 2014, which provides immunity to
2 individuals reporting an incident of drug overdose; and

3 WHEREAS, The provisions of this act were passed with
4 bipartisan and unanimous support by the General Assembly; and

5 WHEREAS, This act ensures that Pennsylvanians facing medical
6 emergencies are able to receive necessary medical attention; and

7 WHEREAS, In March 2021, the Government Accountability Office
8 (GAO) released a review of Good Samaritan laws throughout the
9 country; and

10 WHEREAS, The study found that 47 states and the District of
11 Columbia have enacted Good Samaritan laws; and

12 WHEREAS, The GAO reviewed 17 studies that provide insights
13 into the effectiveness of Good Samaritan laws; and

14 WHEREAS, The GAO found a pattern of lower rates of opioid-
15 related overdose deaths among states that have enacted Good
16 Samaritan laws, both compared to death rates prior to a law's
17 enactment and death rates in states without such laws; and

18 WHEREAS, When comparing death rates prior to enactment of a
19 Good Samaritan law and death rates in states without these laws,
20 the GAO found a pattern of lower rates of opioid-related
21 overdose deaths among states that have enacted Good Samaritan
22 laws; and

23 WHEREAS, The GAO review found an increased likelihood of
24 individuals calling 911 if they are aware of these laws; and

25 WHEREAS, The GAO analysis found that public awareness of Good
26 Samaritan laws varies substantially across jurisdictions among
27 law enforcement officers and the public, which could affect an
28 individual's willingness to call for emergency assistance; and

29 WHEREAS, Act 139 of 2014 only works if everyone knows about
30 its existence; and

1 WHEREAS, If individuals know that they will not face charges
2 after reporting a drug overdose, they are more likely to seek
3 the urgent attention that is necessary in emergency situations;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In many drug overdose cases, even a few minutes can
6 save a life; and

7 WHEREAS, Promoting the provisions of Act 139 of 2014 and
8 raising awareness among residents of this Commonwealth can help
9 save lives and reduce drug overdose deaths; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November
11 2022 as "Good Samaritan Law Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That all executive, legislative and judicial
14 branches of State and local government be encouraged to raise
15 awareness and promote the benefits of the Good Samaritan laws in
16 this Commonwealth.