
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 45

Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, ALLOWAY, ARGALL, BAKER, BLAKE, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, BROWNE, BRUBAKER, CORMAN, COSTA, DINNIMAN, EICHELBERGER, ERICKSON, FARNESE, FERLO, FOLMER, FONTANA, GORDNER, GREENLEAF, HUGHES, HUTCHINSON, KASUNIC, KITCHEN, LEACH, McILHINNEY, MENSCH, PILEGGI, RAFFERTY, ROBBINS, SCARNATI, SCHWANK, SMITH, SMUCKER, SOLOBAY, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, TOMLINSON, VANCE, VOGEL, VULAKOVICH, WARD, WASHINGTON, WAUGH, WHITE, WILEY, WILLIAMS, WOZNIAK, YAW AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 11, 2013

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 11, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing March 14, 2013, as "Charter Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1681, King Charles II of England granted
3 William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for
4 a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn had initially decided to name the land
6 "Sylvania," which in Latin means "woods" and to which King
7 Charles II added the prefix "Penn" to the name in honor of
8 William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served
9 England as a rear admiral and vice admiral of Ireland, a vice
10 admiral of England, a general in the first Dutch War and great
11 captain commander under the Duke of York; and

12 WHEREAS, William Penn wrote a Frame of Government of
13 Pennsylvania that established a democratic system containing
14 full freedom of religion, fair trials using independent juries,

1 assemblies consisting of elected representatives of the people
2 and a separation of powers in the government, all ideas that
3 later formed the crux of the Constitution of the United States;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn described Pennsylvania as his "holy
6 experiment" and from it, he hoped, a nation based on justice
7 would grow; and

8 WHEREAS, William Penn's charter exists as the formal
9 beginning of the colony and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
10 through it William Penn established the first example of
11 democracy in what would become the United States of America; and

12 WHEREAS, Our citizens benefit from learning more about the
13 overall history of this Commonwealth from its founding until
14 today and how the principles of governance within the
15 Commonwealth date back to the beliefs of William Penn; and

16 WHEREAS, The act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.676, No.210) provides
17 for the observance of March 14 of each year as Charter Day and
18 urges the people of this Commonwealth, the public schools and
19 other educational institutions and patriotic, religious,
20 historical and veterans' organizations to observe on that day
21 the anniversary of the execution of the Royal Charter by King
22 Charles II; and

23 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
24 the Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Historical Records
25 Advisory Board each works to inform our residents about the
26 Commonwealth's heritage, including sponsoring the 14th Annual
27 Charter Day event on Sunday, March 10, 2013, in the State Museum
28 of Pennsylvania; and

29 WHEREAS, This free event includes a presentation of the 1681
30 Charter as well as information about Penn's Great Law of 1682, a

1 William Penn reenactor, stories of Pennsylvania history and
2 other programs; and

3 WHEREAS, The charter is sometimes referred to as the
4 Commonwealth's "birth certificate" and the charter on display
5 was William Penn's personal copy; and

6 WHEREAS, The charter will be on display until March 17, 2013;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has 25 other State historic sites and
9 museums and numerous other historical organizations that
10 continue to operate, largely thanks to the assistance of
11 volunteers and other groups that have donated their money, time
12 and other resources so that residents can remain well informed
13 about the fabric of this Commonwealth's history; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate observe March 14, 2013, as "Charter
15 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the residents, schools, other educational
17 institutions and patriotic, religious, historical and veterans
18 groups be urged to participate in the Charter Day activities
19 sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission,
20 the Pennsylvania State Archives, the State Historical Records
21 Advisory Board, the 25 other State historic sites and museums or
22 those offered by any of the many other historical organizations
23 within this Commonwealth; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the volunteers and other residents who keep
25 history alive through their support and work for the
26 Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Pennsylvania
27 State Archives, the State Historical Records Advisory Board, the
28 25 other State historic sites and museums or through the
29 numerous other historical organizations within this Commonwealth
30 be honored for their efforts.