
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 46 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY PILEGGI, AUMENT, BAKER, BOSCOLA, BREWSTER, COSTA,
DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, HAYWOOD, HUTCHINSON,
RAFFERTY, SCAVELLO, SCHWANK, SMITH, TEPLITZ, VULAKOVICH AND
WOZNIAK, MARCH 3, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 3, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 15 through 21, 2015, as "Sunshine
2 Week" in Pennsylvania to commemorate the anniversary of James
3 Madison's birth.

4 WHEREAS, James Madison, the father of our Federal
5 Constitution, was born on March 16, 1751; and

6 WHEREAS, James Madison wrote that "consent of the governed"
7 requires that the people be able to "arm themselves with the
8 power which knowledge gives;" and

9 WHEREAS, An open and accessible government is vital to
10 establishing and maintaining the people's trust and confidence
11 in government and in the government's ability to effectively
12 serve its citizens; and

13 WHEREAS, Every citizen in our participatory democracy has an
14 inherent right of access to government meetings and public
15 records; and

16 WHEREAS, The protection of every person's right of access to
17 public records and government meetings is and should remain a

1 high priority of the General Assembly; and

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly is and should remain committed
3 to openness and transparency in all aspects of its operations
4 and seeks to set a standard in this regard; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of March 15
6 through 21, 2015, as "Sunshine Week" in Pennsylvania to
7 commemorate the anniversary of James Madison's birth; and be it
8 further

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage government agencies
10 across the Commonwealth to enhance the public's access to
11 government records and information, to increase information
12 provided electronically and online and to ensure that all
13 meetings of deliberative bodies and their committees are fully
14 noticed and open to the public; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate commit to strengthening the
16 Commonwealth's Sunshine Act and the Right-to-Know Law to ensure
17 that all Pennsylvanians have meaningful access to government
18 records and a meaningful opportunity to participate in
19 government meetings.