
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 771 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, READSHAW, MAJOR, COHEN, HENNESSEY,
THOMAS, CALTAGIRONE, FREEMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG,
KIRKLAND, KORTZ, CLAY, MILLARD, MIRABITO, ROSS, BROWNLEE,
FLECK, V. BROWN, GINGRICH AND MURT, APRIL 7, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 7, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of April 28 through May 4, 2014, as "Noise
2 Reduction Week" in Pennsylvania and April 30, 2014, as "Noise
3 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The Center for Hearing and Communication established
5 "International Noise Awareness Day" to promote awareness of the
6 dangers of long-term exposure to noise and will mark the 19th
7 Annual International Noise Awareness Day on April 30, 2014; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the Center for Hearing and
9 Communication, noise in all forms poses one of the worst threats
10 to hearing for all people; and

11 WHEREAS, Noise served as one of the leading causes of hearing
12 loss in the 28 million people with impaired hearing in the
13 United States, and health statistics suggest a trend that the
14 incidence of hearing loss occurs at increasingly younger ages;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Noise-induced hearing loss, though preventable, is
17 permanent; and

1 WHEREAS, Noise harms more than our ears as continued exposure
2 to loud noise will not only cause hearing loss, but, according
3 to William H. Stewart, former United States Surgeon General,
4 "Noise must be considered a hazard to the health of people
5 everywhere"; and

6 WHEREAS, Studies have correlated noise with physiological
7 changes in sleep, blood pressure, digestion, gastrointestinal
8 changes and generally can cause annoyance that damages the
9 quality of life in neighborhoods and communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Noise may cause increased aggression and less
11 helpful behavior and various mental health issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Workers in various professions, including
13 firefighters, police officers, factory workers, farmers,
14 construction workers, military personnel, heavy industry
15 workers, musicians and entertainment industry professionals,
16 have an increased risk of hearing damage and other problems due
17 to noise; and

18 WHEREAS, Office staff employed in crowded office buildings
19 with phones ringing and the constant hum of computers, air
20 conditioners and fans are faced with the annoyance and increased
21 stress created by noise; and

22 WHEREAS, Noise-induced hearing loss is cumulative across the
23 life span of an individual, but many warning signs will occur
24 that can indicate a problem has developed; and

25 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth should pay attention
26 to the following warning signs and possibly contact a licensed
27 audiologist or have their ears examined by an ear doctor if they
28 experience:

29 (1) A ringing or buzzing (tinnitus) in the ears
30 immediately after exposure to noise.

1 (2) A slight muffling of sounds after exposure, making
2 it difficult to understand people after leaving a noisy
3 area.

4 (3) Difficulty understanding speech in that a person can
5 hear all the words, but cannot understand what someone has
6 said;

7 and

8 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth can take various
9 actions to protect their hearing, including paying attention to
10 the noises around them, turning down the volume on devices
11 whenever possible, avoiding or setting a time limit spent in
12 noisy sports events, rock concerts and nightclubs, wearing
13 adequate hearing protection, such as foam ear plugs or ear
14 muffs, when inside a noisy environment or when using loud
15 equipment and making any and all efforts to reduce the creation
16 of loud, constant noises; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
18 week of April 28 through May 4, 2014, as "Noise Reduction Week"
19 in Pennsylvania and April 30, 2014, as "Noise Awareness Day" in
20 Pennsylvania; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
22 residents of this Commonwealth to do their part to recognize the
23 19th Annual International Noise Awareness Day on April 30, 2014,
24 by observing one minute of silence from 2:15 p.m. to 2:16 p.m.;;
25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
27 residents of this Commonwealth throughout the week of April 28
28 through May 4, 2014, and thereafter, to make an effort to reduce
29 noise by:

30 (1) Paying attention to the noises we each make and

1 respecting our neighbors' right to peace and quiet.

2 (2) Turning down the volume two notches on radios and
3 personal stereo systems with headphones, turning down the
4 volume one notch on any television and asking health club
5 instructors, movie theater owners and other business people
6 to lower the volume on the amplified devices in their
7 establishments.

8 (3) Not honking a vehicle horn, except in the case of
9 imminent danger.

10 (4) Not tipping cab drivers who honk their horns
11 illegally.

12 (5) Avoiding noisy sports events, restaurants, rock
13 concerts and nightclubs unless wearing hearing protection.

14 (6) Replacing noisy activities with quiet ones, such as
15 taking a walk and visiting libraries and museums.

16 (7) Wearing adequate hearing protection in noisy
17 environments, including when using a subway or mowing a lawn.

18 (8) Turning off the television during dinner and having
19 a quiet conversation instead.

20 (9) Scheduling a hearing screening.

21 (10) Discussing with local officials the enforcement of
22 noise ordinances that protect the quality of life in
23 neighborhoods and otherwise quietly spreading the word about
24 the danger of loud noise.