
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 386 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, PICKETT, ROWE, BARTON AND JOZWIAK,
MARCH 14, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 14, 2023

AN ACT

1 Establishing an official rock of the Commonwealth.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Official Rock
6 Act.

7 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

8 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

9 (1) The production of anthracite coal has historically
10 been a major industry and source of employment in this
11 Commonwealth.

12 (2) Anthracite played a major role in the
13 industrialization of this Commonwealth and the United States.

14 (3) It is estimated that 16,000,000,000 tons of coal lie
15 within the anthracite seams in northeastern Pennsylvania,
16 with a recoverable amount being classified at approximately
17 7,000,000,000 tons.

1 (4) Connecticut settlers in the Wyoming Valley
2 discovered the anthracite coal seams in 1762.

3 (5) In 1775, mining of anthracite started in
4 northeastern Pennsylvania in Pittston.

5 (6) The first industrial use of anthracite, for heating
6 and drawing iron in the making of nails, was recorded in
7 1788.

8 (7) Anthracite was discovered in the Schuylkill region
9 in 1790 and in the Lehigh region in 1792.

10 (8) The first recorded anthracite coal company, the
11 Lehigh Coal Mining Company, sent the first significant
12 shipments of anthracite out of the coal field region in 1820.

13 (9) The Pennsylvania Department of Mines was established
14 in 1869, with the nation's first stringent mine safety laws
15 to follow in 1870.

16 (10) In 1959, the Knox Mine disaster ended deep coal
17 mining in the northern anthracite fields in this
18 Commonwealth.

19 (11) The anthracite ranges cover 500 square miles in
20 Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Luzerne,
21 Northumberland, Schuylkill, Susquehanna and Wayne counties.

22 (12) Anthracite, historically referred to as stone coal,
23 is one of this Commonwealth's most significant natural
24 resources.

25 (13) In 1971, to help preserve and share the rich
26 history of Pennsylvania anthracite, the Pennsylvania
27 Historical and Museum Commission created the Anthracite
28 Museum Complex, consisting of three museums, the Pennsylvania
29 Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Eckley Miners' Village and
30 the Museum of Anthracite Mining, and one historical site, the

1 Scranton Iron Furnaces.

2 Section 3. Designation.

3 Anthracite, also referred to as hard coal, is designated as
4 the official rock of the Commonwealth.

5 Section 4. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.