
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1012 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, BOBACK, SAYLOR,
GALLOWAY, DRISCOLL, BURNS, BROWN, FREEMAN, WILLIAMS, HILL-
EVANS, MILLARD, TOEPEL, LONGIETTI, HOWARD, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI,
READSHAW, FARRY, ISAACSON AND DEASY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing the month of September 2020 as "Newborn Screening
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every
4 newborn prior to hospital discharge for certain harmful or
5 potentially fatal conditions that are not otherwise apparent at
6 birth; and

7 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns
8 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant
9 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

10 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that
11 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and
12 evaluation; and

13 WHEREAS, Every year nearly 4 million newborns in the United
14 States and more than 135,000 newborns in Pennsylvania undergo
15 newborn screening; and

16 WHEREAS, One in 300 newborns in the United States are

1 identified with a genetic disorder through screening that,
2 without intervention, may permanently impact newborns and their
3 families; and

4 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers
5 for Disease Control and Prevention's list of Ten Great Public
6 Health Achievements in the 20th Century; and

7 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States
8 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the act of
10 September 9, 1965 (P.L.497, No.251), known as the Newborn Child
11 Testing Act, by requiring physicians, hospitals and other
12 institutions to administer tests or cause tests to be
13 administered for PKU and other metabolic diseases upon infants
14 in certain cases; and

15 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the Newborn Child
16 Testing Act has been amended three times, most recently with Act
17 148 of 2014, which expanded the list of required diseases for
18 testing from 6 to 12; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania
20 provides newborn hearing screening, testing for critical
21 congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and services
22 for all 37 currently listed newborn conditions on Pennsylvania's
23 two screening panels; and

24 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-Up
25 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of
26 Health; and

27 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in
28 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with
29 several partner organizations, to shine a national spotlight on
30 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe the month
2 of September 2020 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" in
3 Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the
5 importance of awareness of newborn screening and encourage
6 current and future parents to educate themselves and take the
7 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.