
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1048 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, OCTOBER 16, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 16, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2020 as "Carbon Monoxide
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, November is the best time to raise awareness for
4 carbon monoxide poisoning because the threat of exposure
5 increases as people stay indoors and burn more fuel to heat
6 their homes during the winter months; and

7 WHEREAS, Exposure occurs most commonly when a person leaves a
8 vehicle running, burns charcoal, alcohol or gasoline in an
9 enclosed space or smokes a cigar, cigarette or pipe; and

10 WHEREAS, Incorrectly vented or malfunctioning appliances and
11 products and equipment powered by internal combustion engines,
12 such as portable generators, cars, lawn mowers and power
13 washers, also produce carbon monoxide; and

14 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide is known as a "silent killer"
15 because it is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poisonous gas
16 that can be fatal when inhaled; and

17 WHEREAS, Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning may include a
18 dull headache, weakness, dizziness, nausea or vomiting,

1 shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision and loss of
2 consciousness; and

3 WHEREAS, The health effects of carbon monoxide poisoning can
4 vary significantly due to age, sex, weight and overall state of
5 health; and

6 WHEREAS, Depending on the degree and length of exposure,
7 carbon monoxide poisoning can harm the central nervous system,
8 cause permanent brain damage or damage the heart, leading to
9 life-threatening cardiac complications or death; and

10 WHEREAS, A 2007 study by the Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention (CDC) found that Pennsylvania leads the nation in
12 accidental carbon monoxide poisoning deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, The CDC has determined that carbon monoxide claims
14 approximately 400 lives each year and carbon monoxide exposure
15 sends more than 20,000 people to emergency rooms annually; and

16 WHEREAS, Public education and awareness about carbon monoxide
17 poisonings are critical to protecting residents of Pennsylvania
18 from the dangers of this deadly gas and the risk factors in the
19 home; and

20 WHEREAS, Carbon monoxide alarms have been determined to be
21 the most effective way to detect carbon monoxide; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a dramatic correlation between cities with
23 carbon monoxide alarm ordinances and lower death rates from
24 carbon monoxide poisoning; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
26 month of November 2020 as "Carbon Monoxide Awareness Month" in
27 Pennsylvania.