
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1065 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, GALLOWAY, BURNS, READSHAW, WILLIAMS,
KINSEY, SANCHEZ, MURT, WEBSTER AND HENNESSEY,
OCTOBER 19, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 19, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing October 21, 2020, as "Reptile Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to *Reptiles* magazine, "Reptile Awareness
4 Day" is celebrated each year on October 21; and

5 WHEREAS, It is generally believed that "Reptile Awareness
6 Day" was founded not only as a means of celebration for reptile
7 lovers, but also to promote education, conservation, and
8 appreciation for reptiles; and

9 WHEREAS, "Reptile Awareness Day" is a day that promotes
10 learning about the natural habitats of reptiles and the
11 ecological threats that they face; and

12 WHEREAS, Reptiles, both captive and wild, face a variety of
13 threats and challenges, as reptiles rely on highly complex
14 environments; and

15 WHEREAS, As highly complex creatures, reptiles require
16 specific ranges of light relative to both temperature and
17 wavelength on a daily and seasonal basis; and

1 WHEREAS, With the exception of fish, amphibians and reptiles
2 represent the oldest living vertebrate species in the world; and

3 WHEREAS, Like fish, amphibians and reptiles are ectothermic,
4 more commonly referred to as cold-blooded, which means that
5 their body temperature is not regulated internally, but rather
6 changes with the temperatures surrounding it; and

7 WHEREAS, According to Wild Welfare, an international animal
8 welfare organization, reptiles are dependent on a series of
9 environmental factors; and

10 WHEREAS, Specifically, reptiles rely on varying patterns of
11 microclimates relative to factors including humidity, seasonally
12 diverse diets and textural environments that consist of
13 distinctive physical characteristics; and

14 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, due to the complexity of their needs,
15 captive reptiles are often not provided with the proper care
16 that they require; and

17 WHEREAS, Another threat associated with captive reptiles or
18 those purchased through the pet trade is the unregulated or
19 under-regulated practice of wildlife trafficking, which can lead
20 to an unsustainable exploitation of wild populations; and

21 WHEREAS, Sadly, international efforts to stop wildlife
22 trafficking often do not focus on species deemed to be of
23 "lower-value," including those imported specifically for the pet
24 trade; and

25 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 1970s, international cooperation
26 began to bring greater awareness to wildlife trafficking through
27 the formation of the Convention on International Trade in
28 Endangered Species; and

29 WHEREAS, Species that are already placed under a multitude of
30 external influences are also experiencing life threatening

1 impacts as a result of unsustainable human activities, which
2 have created a growing crisis relative to biodiversity that is
3 driven by climate change, habitat loss, invasive organisms,
4 pollution and illegal wildlife trafficking; and

5 WHEREAS, Federal and State legislation, including the Federal
6 Endangered Species Act, established a means through which
7 threatened and endangered species and ecosystems may be
8 conserved and protected; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1974 and 1978, legislation was enacted to provide
10 the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission with jurisdiction over
11 the Commonwealth's amphibian and reptile populations; and

12 WHEREAS, These legislative measures have been designed to
13 help prevent or, at the very least, help slow the rate of
14 extinction of threatened and endangered species; and

15 WHEREAS, Currently, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
16 considers the bog turtle, massasauga rattlesnake, Kirtland's
17 snake, rough green snake and eastern mud turtle to be endangered
18 reptile species in this Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat
20 Commission has listed the red-bellied turtle, Blanding's turtle,
21 broadhead skink and timber rattlesnake as reptiles deemed to be
22 threatened species; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize October
24 21, 2020, as "Reptile Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth observe and promote "Reptile
27 Awareness Day" as a means of encouraging learning about the
28 natural habitats of reptiles and the ecological threats that
29 reptiles face, both here in the Commonwealth and throughout the
30 world.