
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1142 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, PICKETT, HILL-EVANS, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
SONNEY, DUSH, CALTAGIRONE, NEILSON, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD,
PASHINSKI, STAATS, BURNS, YOUNGBLOOD, R. BROWN, WARD,
DRISCOLL, WARREN AND LONGIETTI, OCTOBER 9, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 9, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 19, 2018, as "Lock 'Em Up Day in PA."

2 WHEREAS, Misuse and abuse of prescription drugs has serious
3 social and public health consequences; and

4 WHEREAS, Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental
5 death nationwide; and

6 WHEREAS, Relatives and friends are the primary sources of
7 commonly abused prescription drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, Prescription opioid abuse is recognized as a State
9 and national epidemic; and

10 WHEREAS, Opioid medications and other prescription drugs must
11 always be stored securely; and

12 WHEREAS, Any person having prescription drugs at home is at
13 risk for medication diversion, the transfer of a legally
14 prescribed controlled substance for unlawful distribution or
15 use; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the National Survey on Drug Use and

1 Health, 70% of controlled substance prescription abusers obtain
2 their drugs from a family member or friend; and

3 WHEREAS, The survey further reflects that 53% of persons 12
4 years of age or older who used pain relievers nonmedically
5 during the prior year had obtained them from a family member or
6 friend; and

7 WHEREAS, A Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council
8 research brief using data from 2000 through 2014 shows a 225%
9 increase in the number of hospitalizations for overdose of pain
10 medication and a 162% increase in the number of hospitalizations
11 for overdose of heroin; and

12 WHEREAS, Opioid overdose caused the deaths of more than 4,884
13 Pennsylvanians in 2016; and

14 WHEREAS, Safe storage practices include locking prescription
15 drugs in a secure drawer or cabinet that is out of sight and out
16 of reach of children, visitors and other family members; and

17 WHEREAS, Consistently returning medication to its secure
18 location after each use is another important step in curbing the
19 State and national opioid epidemic; and

20 WHEREAS, Authorized take-back programs in our communities
21 allow consumers to promptly, safely and responsibly dispose of
22 most types of unused medications; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October
24 19, 2018, as "Lock 'Em Up Day in PA" to ensure proper storage
25 and disposal of opioids and other prescription drugs.