
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 136 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY MATZIE, D. COSTA, DeLUCA, KULIK, READSHAW,
DIGIROLAMO, WARREN, CALTAGIRONE, MURT, FREEMAN, MILLARD,
LONGIETTI, SOLOMON, HILL-EVANS, NEILSON, KINSEY, SCHWEYER,
BIZZARRO, GOODMAN, THOMAS, PASHINSKI, BRIGGS AND GILLEN,
MARCH 9, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 9, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 12 through 18, 2017, as "Sunshine
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The basic principles of freedom of speech and
4 freedom of the press guaranteed in the Constitution of the
5 United States are fundamental to our national heritage; and

6 WHEREAS, Since 2005, the American Society of News Editors and
7 the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and its members, which
8 include all of this Commonwealth's 77 daily newspapers, 175
9 nondaily and collegiate news publications and 7 online-only news
10 organizations annually observe "Sunshine Week" in mid-March,
11 coinciding with James Madison's birthday on March 16, as a
12 nonpartisan, nonprofit initiative to illustrate the importance
13 of open government and public access to government records and
14 meetings; and

15 WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" participation by nonjournalism
16 groups is growing through national and local forums planned by

1 civic groups, libraries, open government and freedom of
2 information groups and student media; and

3 WHEREAS, "Sunshine Week" was established to spark a
4 discussion about the importance of open government and public
5 access to government documents and meetings; and

6 WHEREAS, These issues are important in this Commonwealth,
7 where public access issues regularly emerge; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
9 week of March 12 through 18, 2017, as "Sunshine Week" in
10 Pennsylvania; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That all residents of this Commonwealth be urged to
12 join in this observance of the basic principles of an open and
13 accessible government in a free society.