
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 237 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY YOUNG, McNEILL, MADDEN, HOHENSTEIN, CEPHAS,
SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, GUENST, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
MILLARD, LONGIETTI, DELLOSO, TWARDZIK, NEILSON AND CIRESI,
OCTOBER 17, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 17, 2022

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 20, 2022, as "Lights on Afterschool Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The residents of this Commonwealth stand firmly
4 committed to quality afterschool programs and opportunities
5 because these programs and opportunities:

6 (1) provide safe and engaging learning experiences that
7 help children realize their full potential;

8 (2) support working families by ensuring that their
9 children are safe and productive when they are out of their
10 classrooms;

11 (3) build stronger communities by involving students,
12 parents, business leaders and adult volunteers in the lives
13 of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships
14 among youth, families and adults; and

15 (4) engage families, schools and community partners in
16 advancing the welfare of our children;

17 and

1 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs have risen to the moment to
2 support youth in addressing the social and academic needs as
3 they recover from the pandemic; and

4 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs continue to provide innovative,
5 hands-on opportunities for youth to reengage in their learning
6 and connect with caring adults and peers in a safe and
7 supportive environment; and

8 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has provided significant
9 leadership in the area of community involvement in the education
10 and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that
11 quality afterschool programs are key to helping our children
12 become successful adults; and

13 WHEREAS, The National "Lights On Afterschool" celebration of
14 afterschool programs, held this year on October 20, 2022,
15 promotes the importance of quality afterschool programs in the
16 lives of children, families and communities; and

17 WHEREAS, Nearly 25 million families report that they would
18 enroll their children in an afterschool program if one were
19 available; and

20 WHEREAS, For students in kindergarten through twelfth grade,
21 more than 80% of their time is spent learning outside school
22 during afterschool and summer programs, in libraries, museums
23 and science centers or at home or in the community; and

24 WHEREAS, Afterschool programs engage students in hands-on,
25 real world science, technology, engineering and mathematics
26 (STEM) projects to help build vital 21st-century skills,
27 cultivate an interest in STEM and offer innovative ways for
28 students to connect STEM to their lives and community; and

29 WHEREAS, Many afterschool programs across the country are
30 facing operating challenges so severe that they are forced to

1 consider closing their doors and turning off their lights; and
2 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to investing in the
3 health and safety of all young people by providing expanded
4 learning opportunities that help our children learn and grow,
5 while helping them develop the skills essential for success in
6 life and work; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
8 designate October 20, 2022, as "Lights On Afterschool Day" in
9 Pennsylvania; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly commit this Commonwealth
11 to engage in innovative afterschool programs and activities that
12 ensure that the lights stay on and the doors stay open for all
13 children after school.