
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. **255** Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BULLOCK, KAZEEM, MADDEN, MAJOR, KHAN,
R. MACKENZIE, GUENST, McNEILL, SANCHEZ, GIRAL, HILL-EVANS AND
PARKER, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of November 13 through 17, 2023, as
2 "Pennsylvania Education for Students Experiencing
3 Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 15, 2023, as "Red
4 Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania.

5 WHEREAS, In the 2022-2023 school year, 40,003 students in
6 Pennsylvania schools were identified as without adequate
7 housing; and

8 WHEREAS, This represents a more than 20% increase from the
9 2020-2021 school year; and

10 WHEREAS, The purpose of this resolution is to educate the
11 public about the prevalence of students experiencing
12 homelessness, the barriers that may prevent youths from
13 attending school and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
14 (Public Law 100-77, 101 Stat. 482), which all schools must
15 comply with to overcome those barriers; and

16 WHEREAS, There are limited resources available to youths
17 experiencing homelessness, including the shortage of affordable
18 housing for displaced minors; and

1 WHEREAS, Homeless assistance service providers, as well as
2 community service opportunities for students and school service
3 organizations need public support; and

4 WHEREAS, There are many organizations committed to sheltering
5 and providing support services, meals and food supplies to
6 people experiencing homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, However, very few of these support services are
8 specific to the needs of unaccompanied minors; and

9 WHEREAS, Many shelters will not accept a child under 18 years
10 of age without the company of a parent or guardian; and

11 WHEREAS, There is still a dire need for additional resources
12 to assist students experiencing homelessness to attend school
13 and be successful, including the basic needs of food, clothing
14 and educational supplies; and

15 WHEREAS, To show Statewide solidarity with children
16 experiencing homelessness and their educators, the House of
17 Representatives encourages Pennsylvanians to wear red on
18 November 15, 2023, for "Red Shirt Day"; and

19 WHEREAS, The purpose of "Pennsylvania Education for Students
20 Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" is to encourage
21 schools, communities and individuals to plan for and support
22 assistance programs for youths experiencing homelessness as they
23 look to complete their education; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 week of November 13 through 17, 2023, as "Pennsylvania Education
26 for Students Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and
27 November 15, 2023, as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it
28 further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
30 residents of this Commonwealth to recognize that education is

- 1 key to preventing future homelessness and provides stability and
- 2 support to youths experiencing homelessness.