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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 356 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, SONNEY, NEILSON, HEFFLEY, MIRANDA,  
BISHOP, O'BRIEN, CLAY, FREEMAN, DONATUCCI, KULA, LONGIETTI,  
CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DIGIROLAMO, MCNEILL, READSHAW, MIRABITO,  
MILLARD, VEREB, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD, ROCK, KORTZ, SNYDER,  
GROVE, BIZZARRO, PAINTER, MAHONEY, P. DALEY, BROWNLEE,  
GOODMAN, DENLINGER, KIRKLAND, MOLCHANY, ROEBUCK AND GINGRICH,  
JUNE 10, 2013

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
JUNE 10, 2013

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the months of June, July and August 2013 as "Summer  
2 Reading Games 2013" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Libraries throughout this Commonwealth contribute to  
4 the intellectual growth of children and teens during the summer  
5 through reading programs. According to the American Library  
6 Association, summer reading programs began in the 1890s as a way  
7 to encourage school children, particularly those in urban areas  
8 who were not needed for farm work, to read during summer  
9 vacation, use the library and develop a habit of reading; and

10 WHEREAS, Summer reading programs attract children and teens  
11 to libraries where they can participate in reading and cultural  
12 activities. Children and teens benefit from summer programs that  
13 combine elements of youth development principles with academic  
14 enrichment; and

15 WHEREAS, Visiting local libraries provides children with

1 access to unlimited amounts of reading materials; and

2 WHEREAS, Studies done by researchers at Johns Hopkins  
3 University in Baltimore show that disadvantaged youth fall  
4 significantly behind other students because of a lack of access  
5 to reading materials and a loss of encouragement in the home and  
6 elsewhere to participate in any reading. Such a drop off of  
7 reading outside of the school year results in achievement gaps  
8 not only in school, but also later in life. Communities that  
9 offer summer reading encourage youth to develop reading as a  
10 lifelong habit, draw in reluctant readers through activities,  
11 help ensure children, particularly those in disadvantaged homes,  
12 to read over the summer to maintain and increase reading skills  
13 and generate interest in free public libraries and the services  
14 they offer; and

15 WHEREAS, Schools and public librarians throughout this  
16 Commonwealth and the nation have cooperatively produced summer  
17 reading lists to enhance both learning and recreation. Library  
18 officials in Pennsylvania have worked with their counterparts  
19 from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa and  
20 the Mariana Islands through the Collaborative Summer Library  
21 Program (CSLP) to provide high-quality summer reading program  
22 materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their  
23 public libraries. The CSLP annually establishes themes for  
24 summer reading. This year's themes are "Dig Into Reading" for  
25 children, "Beneath the Surface" for teens and "Groundbreaking  
26 Reads" for adults; and

27 WHEREAS, Support of summer reading programs give all library  
28 users an opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners by  
29 visiting the library frequently. In fact, the Johns Hopkins  
30 University and other studies have shown that those who increase

1 their reading have greater success in school and in the job  
2 market, while those who have difficulty with reading may have a  
3 greater risk of failing in the job field and turning to crime;  
4 therefore be it

5       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
6 months of June, July and August 2013 as "Summer Reading Games  
7 2013" in Pennsylvania to encourage all children and teens in  
8 this Commonwealth to participate in all summer library reading  
9 programs and to compete in games and other competitions  
10 established by the libraries and other groups to increase summer  
11 reading; and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize all  
13 libraries in Pennsylvania for the summer reading programs that  
14 they offer and urge all State lawmakers, parents and community  
15 leaders to assist, fully support and otherwise get involved in  
16 such programs to promote lifelong reading at home and elsewhere  
17 by children, youths and adults.