
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 406 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, BERNSTINE, BULLOCK, CALTAGIRONE,
EVERETT, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, MURT, PASHINSKI, RYAN,
SCHWEYER, THOMAS AND WARREN, JUNE 16, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 16, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the months of June, July and August 2017 as "Summer
2 Reading Games Months 2017" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Visiting local libraries provides children with
17 access to unlimited amounts of reading materials; and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Support of summer reading programs give all library
25 users an opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners by
26 visiting the library frequently. In fact, the Johns Hopkins
27 University and other studies have shown that those who increase
28 their reading have greater success in school and in the job
29 market, while those who have difficulty with reading may have a
30 greater risk of failing in the job field and turning to crime;

1 therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
3 months of June, July and August 2017 as "Summer Reading Games
4 Months 2017" in Pennsylvania to encourage all children and teens
5 in this Commonwealth to participate in all summer library
6 reading programs and to compete in games and other competitions
7 established by the libraries and other groups to increase summer
8 reading; and be it further

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