
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 414 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, SIMS, DONATUCCI, DEAN, HENNESSEY, BOYLE,
WARREN, J. HARRIS, ROZZI, D. COSTA, CRUZ, SCHLOSSBERG,
BULLOCK, DAVIS, STURLA, KINSEY, READSHAW, SCHWEYER, CHARLTON,
PETRI, DALEY, DRISCOLL, BIZZARRO, HILL-EVANS, RABB, SOLOMON,
DERMODY, PASHINSKI, D. MILLER, BRIGGS, O'BRIEN, RAVENSTAHL,
CALTAGIRONE, McCARTER, FITZGERALD AND FABRIZIO, JUNE 21, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 21, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2017 as "LGBT Pride Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Our Commonwealth was founded on the principles of
4 freedom, fairness and tolerance; and

5 WHEREAS, Through military service, in debates and
6 demonstrations, at the polls and in countless other acts of
7 democracy, Pennsylvanians have consistently defended these
8 principles; and

9 WHEREAS, Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)
10 Pennsylvanians and their allies have had significant roles in
11 the economic, cultural, spiritual and political development of
12 this Commonwealth while working tirelessly to maintain and
13 promote culture and history; and

14 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has been the site of many pivotal
15 moments in LGBT history; and

1 WHEREAS, The activism that has been vital for promoting
2 tolerance and acceptance of the LGBT community has flourished in
3 this Commonwealth; and

4 WHEREAS, In May 1965, borrowing a strategy associated with
5 the African-American civil rights movement, a group of gender-
6 variant persons of color organized a sit-in to protest
7 discrimination towards LGBT individuals at Dewey's lunch counter
8 in Philadelphia; and

9 WHEREAS, This event has been recognized as the first LGBT
10 sit-in in the nation and one of the first demonstrations
11 launched with the goal of protecting the dignity of LGBT
12 individuals; and

13 WHEREAS, The Annual Reminder marches held in front of the
14 Liberty Bell on Independence Day from 1965 through 1969 drew
15 national attention to the LGBT community's struggle for liberty
16 and equality; and

17 WHEREAS, Initiatives in keeping with the Dewey's lunch
18 counter and Annual Reminder demonstrations have generated
19 greater inclusion among LGBT Americans in their respective
20 communities; and

21 WHEREAS, Commonwealth agencies and officers have
22 traditionally been on the forefront of LGBT recognition,
23 regardless of which political party has been in control; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Milton Shapp issued the first
25 Statewide resolution in the nation recognizing LGBT equality;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, In 1976, Governor Shapp established the Pennsylvania
28 Council for Sexual Minorities, the first governmental body in
29 the nation to examine LGBT issues; and

30 WHEREAS, In 1979, Governor Richard Thornburgh became the

1 first Republican governor in the nation to issue a Statewide
2 resolution recognizing LGBT equality; and

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians remain committed to advancing LGBT
4 inclusion and quality of life; and

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to *Philadelphia Gay News*,
6 the oldest continually published magazine devoted to LGBT
7 issues; and

8 WHEREAS, The John C. Anderson Apartments in Philadelphia, one
9 of the nation's first affordable LGBT elder housing facilities,
10 and the Persad Center in Pittsburgh, the second oldest licensed
11 counseling center serving the LGBT community and people living
12 with HIV, offer additional resources; and

13 WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBT
14 Pride Month" to commemorate the Stonewall riots in New York
15 City, considered to be a turning point in the fight for global
16 LGBT equality; and

17 WHEREAS, "LGBT Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles,
18 accomplishments and challenges of LGBT individuals in this
19 Commonwealth and beyond; and

20 WHEREAS, As a celebration of diversity, "LGBT Pride Month"
21 reflects our State's unique history of welcoming and securing
22 equal treatment for all individuals and adds greatly to the
23 social inclusion and economic health and well-being of our
24 communities; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
26 month of June 2017 as "LGBT Pride Month" in Pennsylvania.