
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 441 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, BAKER, V. BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE,
D. COSTA, DAVIS, DEASY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DOWLING, DUSH,
FARRY, FREEMAN, GABLER, GILLEN, PHILLIPS-HILL, KINSEY,
KNOWLES, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, McCLINTON, MILLARD, B. MILLER,
MURT, NEILSON, O'NEILL, PICKETT, M. QUINN, READSHAW, SAYLOR,
SONNEY, WARD AND WATSON, AUGUST 15, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 15, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2017 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation,
4 sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United
5 States, accounting for an estimated 360,000 deaths each year;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is a condition in which the
8 heart unexpectedly ceases to function due to ventricular
9 fibrillation, an irregular and rapid quivering of the heart's
10 lower pumping chambers; and

11 WHEREAS, When this occurs, blood stops flowing to the brain
12 and other vital organs, causing loss of consciousness or
13 seizure-like activity in seconds; and

14 WHEREAS, Anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest,
15 including infants, high school athletes and individuals 30 years

1 of age or older who have no sign of heart disease; and

2 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the
3 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute giving the disease a
4 mortality rate of approximately 95%; and

5 WHEREAS, The normal rhythm of the heart can only be restored
6 with defibrillation, an electrical shock that is safely
7 delivered to the chest by an automated external defibrillator
8 (AED); and

9 WHEREAS, If not treated within minutes, sudden cardiac arrest
10 results in death; and

11 WHEREAS, For every minute that passes without defibrillation,
12 the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10%; and

13 WHEREAS, Lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are
14 effective if administered in time; and

15 WHEREAS, According to the American Heart Association,
16 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an
17 AED more than double the chances that a victim will survive; and

18 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is frequently the outcome of
19 an underlying heart condition and is often secondary to other
20 conditions such as impact to the chest, heat stroke, asthma,
21 drowning, electrocution and allergic reaction or adverse
22 reaction to medication; and

23 WHEREAS, There is a need for comprehensive educational
24 efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest
25 among medical professionals and the greater public in order to
26 promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and
27 to improve quality of life; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
29 month of October 2017 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month"
30 in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and prompt treatment of

1 sudden cardiac arrest.