
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 465 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY KORTZ, BOBACK, QUIGLEY, LONGIETTI, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, BAKER, DUSH, SONNEY, KAUFFMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SCHLOSSBERG, SACCONI, CORBIN, DEAN, SAYLOR, DIGIROLAMO, STAATS, O'BRIEN, MILLARD, CHARLTON, JAMES, MACKENZIE, CALTAGIRONE, MURT, BULLOCK, RYAN, WATSON, R. BROWN, NEILSON, GOODMAN, ROZZI, GROVE, DRISCOLL, READSHAW, D. COSTA, ZIMMERMAN, WARD, TALLMAN, HEFFLEY, EVERETT, MARSICO, DeLUCA, COX, TOEPEL, B. MILLER, PICKETT, FARRY, GABLER, THOMAS, FREEMAN, GILLEN, KLUNK, SIMS, MARKOSEK, ELLIS, KULIK, RADER, SAMUELSON, BARRAR, PYLE, COMMITTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, KINSEY, PASHINSKI, HARPER, ROTHMAN, RAPP, ROEBUCK, JOZWIAK, BURNS, CONKLIN, BARBIN, SCHWEYER, WARREN AND BERNSTINE, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 230th anniversary of the signing of the
2 Constitution of the United States and honoring the vision and
3 perseverance of the framers who crafted our nation's
4 governing document during the Constitutional Convention of
5 1787.

6 WHEREAS, The nation's first governing document, the Articles
7 of Confederation, was ratified in 1781 and provided for a loose
8 confederation of states and a weak central government; and

9 WHEREAS, The Congress of the Confederation struggled to
10 enforce its authority without executive or judicial branches of
11 government; and

12 WHEREAS, Congress endorsed the idea of New York politician
13 Alexander Hamilton to convene a Constitutional Convention in

1 Philadelphia in 1787 and invited all 13 states to send delegates
2 to the meeting; and

3 WHEREAS, The Constitutional Convention opened in May 1787, in
4 Independence Hall, formerly known as the Pennsylvania State
5 House, with 55 delegates that included Gouverneur Morris and
6 James Wilson from Pennsylvania, who emerged as leading figures
7 in the convention; and

8 WHEREAS, The delegates, upon extensive debate, realized they
9 needed to write a new governing document to address the needs of
10 their emerging nation rather than simply amend the Articles of
11 Confederation; and

12 WHEREAS, The framers developed a plan for three coequal
13 branches of government, executive, legislative and judicial, and
14 devised a system of checks and balances that instilled power in
15 and oversight of each branch; and

16 WHEREAS, Delegates negotiated the Connecticut Compromise,
17 which established a bicameral legislature that allowed for one
18 chamber to reflect the proportional population of states and
19 another to grant all states equal representation; and

20 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States was signed on
21 September 17, 1787, first by George Washington and then by 39 of
22 the 55 delegates present before being presented to the states
23 for ratification; and

24 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was the second state to ratify the
25 Constitution of the United States on December 12, 1787; and

26 WHEREAS, Nine states were needed to ratify the document for
27 it to take effect with the ninth state ratifying it in June
28 1788; and

29 WHEREAS, Framers agreed to the demands of some states to
30 quickly include 10 amendments establishing rights and freedoms

1 for individuals as well as the states, known collectively as the
2 Bill of Rights; and

3 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States was written
4 with enough foresight that it has endured for 230 years only
5 being altered 17 times after the adoption of the Bill of Rights;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, It is fitting that we honor the 230th anniversary of
8 the governing document that solidified a fledgling nation,
9 proving that inclusion and compromise can create lasting and
10 effective governance; and

11 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States as a living
12 document has seen our nation through times of war and peace,
13 depression and prosperity, growth and change; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and
15 recognize the 230th anniversary of the signing of the
16 Constitution of the United States.