
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 471 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY HARPER, MAJOR, MURT, BISHOP, BIZZARRO, R. BROWN,
V. BROWN, COHEN, CORBIN, D. COSTA, M. DALEY, DIGIROLAMO,
DRISCOLL, DUSH, FREEMAN, GINGRICH, HENNESSEY, PHILLIPS-HILL,
JAMES, JOZWIAK, KIM, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KLUNK, LONGIETTI,
MACKENZIE, MAHONEY, MARSICO, MILLARD, MILNE, O'NEILL, PAYNE,
READSHAW, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY,
THOMAS, VEREB, WHEELAND AND SCHWEYER, SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of September 27 through October 3, 2015, as
2 "Civic Education Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is where the Constitutional
4 government for the United States of America began nearly 240
5 years ago; and

6 WHEREAS, In order to ensure that "the government of the
7 people, by the people and for the people long endures" as so
8 eloquently stated by President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, it
9 is necessary to ensure that each succeeding generation of
10 Americans understands the principles of American self-governance
11 and the ideals and principles on which our representative
12 democracy is based and from which its institutions derive their
13 legitimacy and power; and

14 WHEREAS, National testing shows an unfortunate ignorance
15 among eighth grade students about civics, geography and American

1 history, while at the same time national polling shows Americans
2 strongly support the role of public schools in teaching young
3 people how to become responsible citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth currently requires civic education
5 in the form of social studies from kindergarten through 12th
6 grade, and the Department of Education is authorized to test
7 students for civic knowledge on the Keystone Exam, once the
8 questions have been developed, making the importance of civic
9 education known in this Commonwealth and indicating the
10 seriousness with which the Department of Education views the
11 role of public schools in educating citizens on their rights and
12 responsibilities; and

13 WHEREAS, American adults could also benefit from civic
14 education to encourage greater civic engagement and involvement
15 in our electoral and political process; and

16 WHEREAS, Civics education and participation in
17 extracurricular activities are indicators for future civic
18 engagement and involvement in our American democracy, and high
19 quality civics education can help students learn to listen to
20 differing points of view, take greater responsibility for their
21 own role in the government of "we the people" and work toward
22 improving their own communities; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 week of September 27 through October 3, 2015, as "Civic
25 Education Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That all citizens of this Commonwealth be urged to
27 celebrate all efforts to educate and inform American citizens
28 about their rights and responsibilities and the importance of
29 civic engagement.