
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 474 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BAKER, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, K. BOYLE, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FARINA, FLECK, FREEMAN, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRELL, HAHN, HARHART, KILLION, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, D. MILLER, MIRABITO, NEILSON, PAINTER, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, VEREB, WATSON AND WHITE, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2013 as "Lifesharing Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 1,582 individuals with intellectual
4 disabilities receive Lifesharing services in this Commonwealth
5 each year; and

6 WHEREAS, Lifesharing involves having an individual with an
7 intellectual disability share his or her life with supportive
8 people who form a caring household; and

9 WHEREAS, Lifesharing may happen in a provider's home or
10 apartment or the individual's home or apartment, and Lifesharing
11 may be offered by a couple, a single person or a family; and

12 WHEREAS, The purpose of Lifesharing is to enrich the lives of
13 people with intellectual disabilities by matching those who
14 choose Lifesharing with an individual or a family who choose to

1 open their home and hearts; and

2 WHEREAS, Lifesharing is a mutual experience, not a hierarchal
3 one; and

4 WHEREAS, Lifesharing is providing a place to live for people
5 with intellectual disabilities in which they can develop close,
6 committed personal relationships; and

7 WHEREAS, Lifesharing services, formerly known as Family
8 Living, have been provided in this Commonwealth for the past 30
9 years; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1982, a pilot Lifesharing program officially
11 began with Thresholds, an agency located in Reading; and

12 WHEREAS, Lifesharing became a viable living option for
13 individuals with intellectual disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, By 1997, Lifesharing spread to every county in this
15 State; and

16 WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual disabilities who live
17 with foster parents through children and youth services are able
18 to continue living in that home under Lifesharing when they turn
19 21 in order to provide consistency and continuity of care to the
20 individual with a disability; and

21 WHEREAS, According to data comparison from a Statewide
22 independent monitoring of residential services from 2007 to
23 2010, Lifesharing participants consistently had the highest
24 level of consumer satisfaction with where they live; and

25 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a significant waiting list for
26 individuals with intellectual disabilities requesting
27 residential services due to the aging of caregivers and an aging
28 population needing support; and

29 WHEREAS, Current models of support, such as intermediate care
30 facilities similar to institutions and home and community-based

1 services, may be unsustainable; and

2 WHEREAS, Lifesharing is less expensive than both of these
3 models, while providing more individualized support; and

4 WHEREAS, An average Lifesharing budget is approximately
5 \$45,000 per year compared to a community or group home budget of
6 approximately \$150,000 per year; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau's
8 statistics in 2005, by the year 2030, the United States will
9 have only 45,000,000 females between the ages of 25 and 44 to
10 care for nearly 75,000,000 individuals 65 years of age or older;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Our work force will not keep pace with the demand;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, There will not be enough workers to take care of the
15 baby boomers; and

16 WHEREAS, Lifesharing may be the answer for many of these
17 individuals; and

18 WHEREAS, Lifesharing affords individuals with intellectual
19 disabilities opportunities for increased community
20 participation, potential for long-term relationships and the
21 ability to assume new social roles; and

22 WHEREAS, Lifesharing providers are advocates, friends and
23 mentors who not only share their homes with people with
24 intellectual disabilities but help them engage in community
25 life, teach them new skills and also help them make friends and
26 good life choices that will lead to satisfying, safe and
27 productive lives; and

28 WHEREAS, It is important to educate the public about
29 Lifesharing and to ensure that people with intellectual
30 disabilities are provided with information so that they may

1 choose Lifesharing as a viable living option; therefore be it
2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
3 month of October 2013 as "Lifesharing Awareness Month" in
4 Pennsylvania.