
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 50 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, BIZZARRO, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, EVERETT,
SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, SAMUELSON, FREEMAN, DIGIROLAMO,
STURLA, PASHINSKI, CIRESI, DALEY, KORTZ, CONKLIN, WARREN,
CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA AND McCLINTON, JANUARY 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of February 2019 as "National Senior
2 Independence Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, As individuals grow older, communities become a
4 source of support and engagement, and allowing older adults to
5 remain in their communities allows them to preserve a critical
6 connection to meaningful memories, people, places and things;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, According to a survey conducted by the AARP, 76% of
9 adults over 50 years of age would prefer to stay in their
10 current residence as long as possible; and

11 WHEREAS, The same AARP survey revealed that 77% of adults
12 over 50 years of age would prefer to remain in their local
13 communities for as long as possible; and

14 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, only 59% of Americans over 50 years
15 of age anticipate that they will be able to age in place in
16 their communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Falling is one of the most prevalent risks to
2 seniors and their independence; and

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention, 1 in 4 adults who are 65 years of age or older
5 experience a fall and more than 3 million older adults are
6 treated in emergency departments for fall-related injuries each
7 year; and

8 WHEREAS, Whether a fall causes injury or not, it can carry a
9 heavy quality-of-life impact that can force seniors to limit
10 their activities and social engagement within their community;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In order for seniors to ensure that their homes are
13 a place in which they can live safely and independently, they
14 should check that all rooms are well lit and make lighting
15 replacements where needed; and

16 WHEREAS, Grab bars and handrails near the shower, bathtub and
17 toilet are recommended for installation in restrooms in seniors'
18 homes; and

19 WHEREAS, Seniors should also keep floors and walkways clear
20 of unnecessary items in order to be able to navigate areas of
21 their home without fear of falling; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human
23 Services Administration on Aging (AoA) promotes the well-being
24 of older individuals by providing services and programs designed
25 to help them live independently in their homes and communities;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, For more than 35 years, the AoA has provided home-
28 based and community-based services to millions of older adults
29 through the programs funded under the Older Americans Act of
30 1965; and

1 WHEREAS, Services provided using AoA funds include, but are
2 not limited to, transportation, adult day care, caregiver
3 supports and health promotion programs; and

4 WHEREAS, "National Senior Independence Month" serves as an
5 opportunity to remind seniors to evaluate their current living
6 situation, recognize the strengths and weaknesses in their daily
7 routine and make adjustments for a better lifestyle; and

8 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes the need to
9 raise awareness of the services available and the steps seniors
10 and their families can take to allow older Pennsylvanians to
11 remain in their homes and communities; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
13 month of February 2019 as "National Senior Independence Month"
14 in Pennsylvania.