
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 504 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, O'NEILL, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, COHEN,
SCHLOSSBERG, V. BROWN, KINSEY, MILLARD, BIZZARRO, PASHINSKI,
PHILLIPS-HILL, MURT, DAVIS, LONGIETTI, DRISCOLL, J. HARRIS,
BAKER, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD, MACKENZIE, KIRKLAND, DONATUCCI,
BARRAR, CALTAGIRONE, SONNEY, DUSH, VEREB, ROEBUCK, O'BRIEN,
BENNINGHOFF, MAJOR, KIM, R. BROWN, WATSON, DIGIROLAMO,
ACOSTA, McNEILL, WHEELAND, BULLOCK, C. PARKER, GOODMAN, DEAN,
MAHONEY, ROSS, STURLA, GILLEN AND FARINA, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2015 as "Dyslexia Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Developmental Reading Disorder (DRD), or dyslexia,
4 is a language-based learning disability that occurs when there
5 is a problem in areas of the brain that help interpret language;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, DRD's symptoms include slow or inaccurate reading,
8 poor spelling, poor writing or mixing up similar words; and

9 WHEREAS, Problems experienced by dyslexics may include:

10 (1) confusing letters or having difficulty learning the
11 sounds that go with letters;

12 (2) having trouble learning how to speak or how to
13 recognize words or determining the meaning of a simple
14 sentence; or

1 (3) having trouble processing the sounds of language,
2 such as rhyming;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Dyslexia can include disorganization of written and
5 spoken language or struggles in comprehending and concentrating
6 on longer reading assignments; and

7 WHEREAS, Dyslexia may also include difficulty in correctly
8 performing math operations, memorizing number facts or learning
9 a foreign language; and

10 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a specific information processing
11 problem that does not interfere with one's ability to think or
12 understand complex ideas; and

13 WHEREAS, Contrary to some beliefs, dyslexia is not caused by
14 either a lack of desire to learn or substandard intelligence, as
15 people of all backgrounds and intellectual levels have dyslexia,
16 with the majority of individuals being of normal intelligence
17 and many being above average in intelligence; and

18 WHEREAS, Students with dyslexia are likely to struggle with
19 many aspects of academic learning, are at a higher risk of
20 dropping out of school entirely and often go for years without
21 being properly diagnosed; and

22 WHEREAS, Aside from problems in school, an individual with
23 dyslexia can experience a loss of self-esteem and general
24 reading problems that may persist into adulthood, which can then
25 affect the individual's job performance; and

26 WHEREAS, According to the International Dyslexia Association,
27 approximately 85% of students classified as having a primary
28 learning disability have difficulty in reading and language
29 processing; and

30 WHEREAS, The number of people having some symptoms of

1 dyslexia is much higher, perhaps as much as 15% to 20% of the
2 entire United States population as a whole; and

3 WHEREAS, There is much hope for students who are correctly
4 diagnosed with this disorder, as they can and do learn
5 successfully with appropriate teaching methods, and the earlier
6 such diagnosis is made the better for the student; and

7 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is a disorder that often manifests itself
8 among members of the same family; and

9 WHEREAS, Dyslexia affects individuals throughout their lives,
10 however, its impact can change at different stages in a person's
11 life; and

12 WHEREAS, Dyslexia is an often misunderstood language-based
13 disability and a large percentage of residents of this
14 Commonwealth experience one or more symptoms of this disorder;
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
17 month of October 2015 as "Dyslexia Awareness Month" in
18 Pennsylvania.