
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 559 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY PHILLIPS-HILL, METZGAR, TALLMAN, KLUNK, SCHEMEL,
DOWLING, GROVE, SAYLOR, TOPPER, NEILSON, CHARLTON, BAKER,
ROE, TOOHIL, DIGIROLAMO, KAUFFMAN, ROTHMAN, IRVIN, KINSEY,
WARD, CALTAGIRONE, RAPP, EVERETT, MARSICO, CORBIN AND
D. COSTA, OCTOBER 11, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 11, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Mason-Dixon Line that
2 established the southern border of York County in October
3 1767.

4 WHEREAS, The Mason-Dixon Line, also known as the line
5 distinguishing the northern states from the southern states
6 during the Civil War, was established by English surveyors
7 Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon; and

8 WHEREAS, The Mason-Dixon Line was the result of a border
9 dispute between the Penn family, proprietors of Pennsylvania,
10 and the Calvert family, proprietors of Maryland; and

11 WHEREAS, Both families were holders of land grants bestowed
12 upon them by English rulers during the 1600s; and

13 WHEREAS, Different maps showed different borders and people
14 therefore questioned where exactly the 39th and 40th parallels
15 were located; and

16 WHEREAS, Mason, an astronomer, and Dixon, a renowned

1 surveyor, were hired to settle the longstanding dispute,
2 starting in 1763; and

3 WHEREAS, The surveyors used the stars to calculate the
4 markings of the 233-mile-long border separating the colonies,
5 identifying the border by engraving the ruling families' coat of
6 arms to identify which colony held jurisdiction; and

7 WHEREAS, Surveyors began 15 miles south of Philadelphia,
8 working their way west for four years to complete the task; and

9 WHEREAS, The surveyors worked through 233 miles of rough
10 terrain and were faced with a wide variety of obstacles that
11 would cause many individuals to quit; and

12 WHEREAS, In October 1767, Mason and Dixon were able to
13 successfully complete the creation of the border; and

14 WHEREAS, The longstanding dispute between the colonies that
15 had caused taxation issues and residential conflict had finally
16 been resolved as a result of the designation of the border;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
19 250th anniversary of the Mason-Dixon Line that established the
20 southern border of York County in October 1767.