
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 901 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, ZABEL, GALLOWAY, A. DAVIS, HILL-EVANS,
HANBIDGE, KORTZ, KINSEY, FREEMAN, PASHINSKI, YOUNGBLOOD,
MURT, ROZZI, ULLMAN, READSHAW, SANCHEZ, MILLARD, DELLOSO,
SHUSTERMAN, HOWARD, BURNS, McCLINTON, NEILSON, SCHWEYER,
TOOHIL AND WARREN, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2020 as "Food Desert Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Agriculture defines
4 a food desert as "a low-income area where there is low access to
5 healthy food based on population and distance from a
6 supermarket"; and

7 WHEREAS, Low-income areas are generally those in which the
8 poverty level exceeds 20% of the area's median income but does
9 not exceed 80% of the Statewide median income or the median
10 income of the greater metropolitan area; and

11 WHEREAS, Low-access areas are those in which individuals in
12 urban and rural areas are more than 1 mile and less than 10
13 miles away from the nearest grocery store, respectively; and

14 WHEREAS, If the aggregate number of people in a census tract
15 with low access is at least 500 or the percentage of people in a
16 census tract with low access is at least 33%, the census tract

1 is considered a food desert; and

2 WHEREAS, Approximately 23.5 million Americans live in food
3 deserts; and

4 WHEREAS, Roughly 75% of all food deserts are found in urban
5 areas and the remaining 25% are found in rural areas; and

6 WHEREAS, Approximately 2 million Pennsylvanians, including
7 500,000 children, live in food deserts; and

8 WHEREAS, Many lower-income communities are also food deserts,
9 which leads to high rates of diet-related deaths; and

10 WHEREAS, Access to healthy foods and supermarkets is critical
11 to healthy eating, overall well-being and reducing rates of
12 childhood obesity; and

13 WHEREAS, Access to healthy food is unevenly distributed
14 throughout this Commonwealth, with several areas having few
15 full-service grocery stores and many in which none exist; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has made significant progress in
17 providing access to healthy foods and ending food deserts in
18 this Commonwealth through the Fresh Food Financing Initiative
19 and nonprofit organizations such as The Food Trust, but more
20 work is necessary; and

21 WHEREAS, All Pennsylvanians should have access to healthy and
22 affordable food options within their neighborhoods; therefore be
23 it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of June 2020 as "Food Desert Awareness Month" in
26 Pennsylvania.