
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 995 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD, KINSEY, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, ROSS,
TOOHIL, KIRKLAND, COHEN, BENNINGHOFF, ROZZI, WATSON,
R. BROWN, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, VEREB, FREEMAN,
MACKENZIE, SAYLOR, PHILLIPS-HILL, WARD, KIM, NEILSON,
MILLARD, DRISCOLL, J. HARRIS, LONGIETTI, TOEPEL, MURT, MAJOR,
O'BRIEN, MARSICO, PAYNE, EVERETT, GINGRICH, READSHAW AND
HENNESSEY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 2016 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every
4 baby born prior to hospital discharge for certain harmful or
5 potentially fatal conditions that are not otherwise apparent at
6 birth; and

7 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns
8 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant
9 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

10 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that
11 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and
12 evaluation; and

13 WHEREAS, Every year more than 4 million newborns in the
14 United States and more than 140,000 newborns in Pennsylvania
15 undergo newborn screening; and

1 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers
2 for Disease Control and Prevention's publication entitled, "Ten
3 Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century"; and

4 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States
5 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the act of
7 September 9, 1965 (P.L.497, No.251), known as the Newborn Child
8 Testing Act, by requiring physicians, hospitals and other
9 institutions to administer or cause to be administered tests for
10 PKU and other metabolic diseases upon infants in certain cases;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the newborn screening
13 act has been amended three times, most recently with Act 148 of
14 2014, which expanded the list of required diseases for testing
15 from six to twelve; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania
17 provides newborn hearing screening, testing for critical
18 congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and services
19 for other diseases; and

20 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-up
21 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of
22 Health; and

23 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in
24 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with
25 several partner organizations to shine a national spotlight on
26 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
28 2016 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and
29 be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the

- 1 importance of awareness and encourage parents and future parents
- 2 to educate themselves on newborn screening and take the
- 3 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.