
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 137 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY STREET, KANE, KEARNEY, SANTARSIERO, COLLETT,
HUGHES, BOSCOLA, SAVAL, COMITTA, FONTANA, MUTH, HAYWOOD,
BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, CAPPELLETTI, COSTA, SCAVELLO AND
YUDICHAK, JUNE 24, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 24, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2021 as "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in
2 Pennsylvania in celebration of past, present and future
3 LGBTQ+ accomplishments and contributions to this Commonwealth
4 and in commemoration of the 52nd anniversary of the Stonewall
5 Inn demonstrations.

6 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded on the principles of
7 fairness and tolerance; and

8 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have repeatedly shown a strong belief
9 in the principles of fairness and tolerance with service
10 defending their principles in wars and in debates,
11 demonstrations and countless other acts of democracy; and

12 WHEREAS, Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTQ+)
13 Pennsylvanians and their allies play a significant role in this
14 Commonwealth's economic, cultural, spiritual and political
15 development, while working tirelessly to maintain and promote
16 their culture and history; and

17 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been the site of many pivotal
18 moments in LGBTQ+ history and has been the location of activism

1 vital to the growing tolerance and acceptance of the LGBTQ+
2 community; and

3 WHEREAS, In May 1965, borrowing a strategy made famous by the
4 African-American civil rights movement of the time, a group of
5 gender-variant individuals of color organized a sit-in to
6 protest discrimination toward LGBTQ+ individuals at Dewey's
7 restaurant lunch counter in Philadelphia, recognized as one of
8 the first demonstrations launched with the goal of protecting
9 the dignity of LGBTQ+ people; and

10 WHEREAS, The "Annual Reminders" protests held in front of the
11 Liberty Bell, which occurred every Independence Day between 1965
12 and 1969, drew national attention to the LGBTQ+ community's
13 struggle for liberty and equality; and

14 WHEREAS, Dewey's restaurant lunch counter and "Annual
15 Reminders" demonstrations, in conjunction with other activities
16 across the United States, greatly contributed toward the growing
17 acceptance and inclusion of LGBTQ+ Americans into their
18 respective communities; and

19 WHEREAS, The State government has traditionally been on the
20 forefront of LGBTQ+ recognition, regardless of which political
21 party was in control; and

22 WHEREAS, The Honorable Milton Shapp, former Governor of
23 Pennsylvania, founded the Council for Sexual Minorities, which
24 was the first governmental body in the nation to examine the
25 needs and issues of the LGBTQ+ community; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Shapp issued the first Statewide
27 executive order in the nation recognizing LGBTQ+ equality; and

28 WHEREAS, Governor Shapp's successor, the Honorable Richard
29 Thornburgh, became the first Republican in the nation to issue a
30 Statewide proclamation recognizing LGBTQ+ equality in 1979; and

1 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth remains committed to promoting
2 LGBTQ+ inclusion and quality of life, as the home of the oldest
3 continually published magazine devoted to LGBTQ+ issues, the
4 *Philadelphia Gay News*, and the nation's second most affordable
5 LGBTQ+ elder housing complex, the John C. Anderson Apartments;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBTQ+
8 Pride Month," in recognition of the Stonewall Inn demonstrations
9 in New York City which took place 52 years ago on June 28, 1969,
10 and is widely credited as a catalyst for the national civil
11 rights movement for the LGBTQ+ community; and

12 WHEREAS, On this 52nd anniversary of the Stonewall Inn
13 demonstrations we remember how on June 28, 1969, the New York
14 City Police Department began conducting a targeted routine raid
15 of the establishment, which was known to welcome LGBTQ+
16 community members; and

17 WHEREAS, An uprising began against the oppressive police
18 forces seeking to infringe upon LGBTQ+ community members'
19 immutable civil rights, with patrons, activists and community
20 members conducting a protest which lasted several days; and

21 WHEREAS, Within the following years the Gay Liberation Front
22 and Gay Activists Alliance were created, and in 1970, the first
23 gay pride parades were held across the United States in New
24 York, San Francisco and Chicago, in commemoration of the
25 anniversary of the protests and as a celebration of equality and
26 empowerment within the movement; and

27 WHEREAS, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles,
28 accomplishments and challenges of LGBTQ+ people in this
29 Commonwealth and beyond; and

30 WHEREAS, This celebration of diversity fits perfectly within

1 the long and unique story of this Commonwealth and our nation's
2 constant quest for the equal treatment of all residents; and

3 WHEREAS, "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" celebrations contribute to a
4 welcoming atmosphere and add greatly to the social and economic
5 health and well-being of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of June 2021 as
7 "LGBTQ+ Pride Month" in Pennsylvania in celebration of LGBTQ+
8 accomplishments and contributions to this Commonwealth as we
9 commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the Stonewall Inn
10 demonstrations and make a strong recommitment to fight for
11 LGBTQ+ equality.