
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 147 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY STREET, LEACH, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, FARNESE,
EICHELBERGER, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, YUDICHAK, SCHWANK,
HUTCHINSON, COSTA AND WILLIAMS, JUNE 19, 2017

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 19, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing June 19, 2017, as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Originating in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865,
4 when slaves in that state learned that they had been freed,
5 "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" is the oldest African-American
6 holiday observance in the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" commemorates the
8 survival instinct of Africans who endured a transatlantic
9 journey, known as the Middle Passage, on slave ships from their
10 homeland to this country; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 11.5 million Africans survived the
12 harsh voyage to slave markets in the New World during the late
13 17th century, and the slave population in the American colonies
14 grew quickly; and

15 WHEREAS, "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" further
16 commemorates the impact of slavery, the abolitionist movement
17 and African-American emancipation in the United States and has

1 become a traditional celebration of independence, human rights
2 and African-American culture in many communities; therefore be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate observe June 19, 2017, as
5 "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.