
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 251 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ALLOWAY, BOSCOLA, DINNIMAN, SABATINA, MCGARRIGLE,
TEPLITZ, COSTA, YAW, FONTANA, BREWSTER, FARNESE, BROWNE,
GREENLEAF, RAFFERTY, PILEGGI, KITCHEN, MENSCH, YUDICHAK,
VOGEL AND WARD, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2015 as "Food Pantry Donation
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Many residents of this Commonwealth are in a
4 continuous struggle to provide food for themselves and their
5 families and this struggle, also known as food insecurity, can
6 result in hunger, malnutrition and, in some cases, starvation;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Since the overall health of a person is dependent
9 upon a proper diet, hunger and malnutrition can lead to physical
10 and cognitive impairments in children and create a host of
11 health-related problems in adults; and

12 WHEREAS, The establishment of a network of community-based
13 food banks and food pantries can reduce the prevalence of food
14 insecurity and offset the adverse effects of hunger and
15 malnourishment; and

16 WHEREAS, Food banks and food pantries, while laudably
17 attempting to reduce that figure, still fall short in providing

1 adequate food supplies to hungry residents of this Commonwealth;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 14% of residents of this Commonwealth
4 do not have a continuous, reliable and self-sustaining pathway
5 to a food bank or food pantry, and 39% of these households have
6 a child under 18 years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, Charitable food organizations, including food banks
8 and food pantries, have responded to food insecurity in this
9 Commonwealth by accepting food donations and providing hot
10 meals, groceries and information on government assistance
11 programs to at-risk adults and families; and

12 WHEREAS, A greater public awareness of food insecurity and
13 the impact food insecurity has on the residents of this
14 Commonwealth is essential to encourage donations to local food
15 banks and pantries in this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Nearly 25 years ago, the General Assembly amended
17 the Judicial Code to provide for reduced liability for damages
18 from donated food and grocery products; and

19 WHEREAS, This "Good Samaritan" provision, under 42 Pa.C.S. §
20 8338, allows for restaurants, grocery stores and other entities
21 that produce and sell food to donate their excess to food banks
22 and, unless negligence or willful provision of expired food can
23 be proven, to be held free of liability in a civil lawsuit if a
24 person should unfortunately become ill from the donated food;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Because of the excess of consumable food being
27 disposed while our friends and neighbors starve, it is necessary
28 to draw attention to this provision in the Judicial Code and
29 encourage businesses such as restaurants to take advantage of
30 "Good Samaritan" provisions to reduce their food waste and help

1 feed our communities; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November
3 2015 as "Food Pantry Donation Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That restaurants and grocery stores consider
6 donating excess food and grocery products to charitable food
7 organizations, including food banks and food pantries.