

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 268 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY J. WARD, MENSCH, MARTIN, FONTANA, DINNIMAN,
HUGHES, LEACH, TARTAGLIONE, BLAKE, BROWNE, YUDICHAK, PITTMAN,
AUMENT, SCHWANK AND BAKER, OCTOBER 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, OCTOBER 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2019 as "Slinky Toy Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Slinky has been used as a toy by millions of
4 adults and children around the world since it was invented by
5 Richard James in 1943; and

6 WHEREAS, Richard James developed the Slinky for the Navy as
7 an anti-vibration device for ship instruments; and

8 WHEREAS, Although the Navy did not use the device, Mr. James
9 made it into a toy and began to market the product when it was
10 demonstrated at Gimbels Department Store in Philadelphia on
11 November 27, 1945; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. James and his wife, Betty, founded James
13 Industries and initially produced the toy in Philadelphia; and

14 WHEREAS, Betty discovered the name for the toy by searching
15 the dictionary and selecting "slinky," a word of Swedish origin
16 which means sleek and graceful. According to the New York Times,
17 Betty chose that word "because she thought it best described the

1 sinuous and graceful movement and the soft sound of the
2 expanding and contracting metal coil her husband, Richard, had
3 fashioned"; and

4 WHEREAS, The Slinky was introduced at the American Toy Fair
5 in 1946; and

6 WHEREAS, Betty, the owner and president of James Industries,
7 relocated the company to Hollidaysburg, Blair County, during the
8 1960s where the Slinky has been manufactured ever since; and

9 WHEREAS, Betty commissioned the development of the toy's
10 memorable and catchy jingle, "It's Slinky," which aired on
11 television in 1962; and

12 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, United States soldiers used
13 Slinkys as mobile radio antennae; and

14 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, nearly 90% of the United States
15 population recognized the Slinky; and

16 WHEREAS, The Slinky was featured on a United States postage
17 stamp in 1999, has appeared in movies and has been the subject
18 of numerous reports in the national press countless times; and

19 WHEREAS, In 2000, the Slinky was inducted into the National
20 Toy Hall of Fame; and

21 WHEREAS, The Slinky was named to the Toy Industry
22 Association's 2003 "Century of Toys List", the 20th century's
23 top 100 most memorable and creative toys; and

24 WHEREAS, According to a 2015 Time Magazine article, more than
25 300 million Slinkys have been sold worldwide; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2018, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
27 Commission approved the development of a State historical marker
28 to be placed in Clifton Heights, Delaware County, where early
29 production of the Slinky occurred after the factory moved from
30 Germantown; and

1 WHEREAS, The Slinky is an icon of American creativity and
2 Pennsylvania manufacturing; therefore be it
3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November
4 2019 as "Slinky Toy Month" in Pennsylvania.