
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 310 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY TEPLITZ, FERLO, GREENLEAF, ERICKSON, WASHINGTON,
STACK, DINNIMAN, ARGALL, EICHELBERGER, HUGHES, FONTANA,
SCHWANK, KASUNIC, BREWSTER, COSTA, SMITH, TARTAGLIONE AND
BOSCOLA, MARCH 10, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 10, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing March 14, 2014, as "Charter Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1681, King Charles II of England granted
3 William Penn a charter for land in the New World to make up for
4 a large debt that the king owed to Penn's father; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn had initially decided to name the land
6 "Sylvania," which in Latin means "woods" and to which King
7 Charles II added the prefix "Penn" to the name in honor of
8 William Penn's father, Admiral Sir William Penn, who had served
9 England as a rear admiral and vice admiral of Ireland, a vice
10 admiral of England, a general in the first Dutch War and great
11 captain commander under the Duke of York; and

12 WHEREAS, William Penn wrote a Frame of Government of
13 Pennsylvania that established a democratic system containing
14 freedom of religion, fair trials using independent juries,
15 assemblies consisting of elected representatives of the people
16 and a separation of powers in the government, all ideas that

1 later influenced the Constitution of the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, William Penn described Pennsylvania as a "holy
3 experiment" and from it, he hoped, a nation based on justice
4 would grow; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn's charter exists as the formal
6 beginning of the colony and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
7 through it William Penn established democratic principles
8 foundational to the colonies that would eventually become the
9 United States of America; and

10 WHEREAS, Citizens benefit from learning more about the
11 overall history of this Commonwealth from its founding and how
12 the principles of governance within the Commonwealth date back
13 to the beliefs of William Penn; and

14 WHEREAS, The act of July 28, 1953 (P.L.676, No.210) provides
15 for the observance of March 14th of each year as Charter Day and
16 urges the people of this Commonwealth, the public schools and
17 other educational institutions and patriotic, religious,
18 historical and veterans' organizations to observe the
19 anniversary of the execution of the Royal Charter by King
20 Charles II; and

21 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
22 (PHMC), the Pennsylvania State Archives and the State Historical
23 Records Advisory Board work to inform our residents about the
24 Commonwealth's heritage, including sponsoring the 15th Annual
25 Charter Day event on Sunday, March 9, 2014, at all PHMC historic
26 sites and properties throughout the State; and

27 WHEREAS, This free event includes a presentation of the
28 original 1681 Charter at Pennsbury Manor, Penn's Pennsylvania
29 home; and

30 WHEREAS, The Charter is sometimes referred to as the

1 Commonwealth's "birth certificate" and the Charter on display
2 was William Penn's personal copy; and

3 WHEREAS, The Charter will be on display at Pennsbury Manor
4 until March 16, 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has 25 other State historic sites and
6 museums and numerous other historical organizations that
7 continue to operate, largely thanks to the assistance of
8 volunteers and other groups that have donated their money, time
9 and other resources so that residents can remain well informed
10 about the fabric of this Commonwealth's history; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate observe March 14, 2014, as "Charter
12 Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That residents, schools, other educational
14 institutions and patriotic, religious, historical and veterans'
15 organizations be urged to participate in the Charter Day
16 activities sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
17 Commission, the Pennsylvania State Archives, the State
18 Historical Records Advisory Board, the 25 other State historic
19 sites and museums or those offered by any of the many other
20 historical organizations within this Commonwealth; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the volunteers and other residents who keep
23 history alive through their support and work for the PHMC, the
24 Pennsylvania State Archives, the State Historical Records
25 Advisory Board, the 25 other State historic sites and museums or
26 through the numerous other historical organizations within this
27 Commonwealth be honored for their efforts.