
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 337 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY STREET, FONTANA, COLLETT, SANTARSIERO, DINNIMAN,
HAYWOOD, FARNESE, IOVINO, KEARNEY, A. WILLIAMS, MUTH,
SCAVELLO AND COSTA, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2020 as "LGBT Pride Month" in
2 Pennsylvania in celebration of past, present and future LGBT
3 accomplishments and contributions to this Commonwealth and in
4 commemoration of the 51st anniversary of the Stonewall Inn
5 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 (LGBT)
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 LGBT history and has been the location of activism
19 vital to the growing tolerance and acceptance of the LGBT

1 community; and

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

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Shapp issued the first Statewide
26 executive order in the nation recognizing LGBT equality; and

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

30 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth remains committed to promoting

1 LGBT inclusion and quality of life, as the home of the oldest
2 continually published magazine devoted to LGBT issues, the
3 *Philadelphia Gay News*, and the nation's second most affordable
4 LGBT elder housing complex, the John C. Anderson Apartments; and

5 WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBT
6 Pride Month," in recognition of the Stonewall Inn demonstrations
7 in New York City which took place 51 years ago on June 28, 1969,
8 and is widely credited as a catalyst for the national civil
9 rights movement for the LGBT community; and

10 WHEREAS, On this 51st anniversary of the Stonewall Inn
11 demonstrations we remember how on June 28, 1969, the New York
12 City Police Department began conducting a targeted routine raid
13 of the establishment, which was known to welcome LGBT community
14 members; and

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

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

25 WHEREAS, "LGBT Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles,
26 accomplishments and challenges of LGBT people in this
27 Commonwealth and beyond; and

28 WHEREAS, This celebration of diversity fits perfectly within
29 the long and unique story of this Commonwealth and our nation's
30 constant quest for the equal treatment of all residents; and

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

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of June 2020 as
5 "LGBT Pride Month" in Pennsylvania in celebration of LGBT
6 accomplishments and contributions to this Commonwealth as we
7 commemorate the 51st anniversary of the Stonewall Inn
8 demonstrations and make a strong recommitment to fight for LGBT
9 equality.