
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 411 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY KITCHEN, COSTA, STACK, WASHINGTON, TEPLITZ,
FARNESE, HUGHES, FERLO, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, ERICKSON,
SCHWANK, WILLIAMS, EICHELBERGER, PILEGGI, BREWSTER, FONTANA,
BAKER, SMITH, KASUNIC, VULAKOVICH, RAFFERTY, YUDICHAK,
HUTCHINSON, ALLOWAY, TARTAGLIONE, ARGALL AND BRUBAKER,
JUNE 18, 2014

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 18, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing June 19, 2014, 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 commemorates
16 the impact of slavery, the abolition movement and African-

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

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge Pennsylvanians to observe June
5 19, 2014, as "Juneteenth National Freedom Day" in Pennsylvania.