
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 289 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY PETRARCA, APRIL 26, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 26, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Pennsylvania Prison Society on its 230th
2 anniversary of advocating for those in prison and their
3 families, commemorating the achievements of the organization
4 and highlighting the continued need for the work of the
5 Pennsylvania Prison Society.

6 WHEREAS, On May 8, 1787, the Pennsylvania Prison Society was
7 founded by Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of
8 Independence; and

9 WHEREAS, Bishop William White and Benjamin Franklin were
10 members of the Pennsylvania Prison Society; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Prison Society's purpose is to
12 monitor prison conditions in this Commonwealth and to advocate
13 for the humane treatment of prisoners and their families; and

14 WHEREAS, For the first 100 years, the Pennsylvania Prison
15 Society was known as The Philadelphia Society for Alleviating
16 the Miseries of Public Prisons; and

17 WHEREAS, The earliest members of the Pennsylvania Prison
18 Society addressed corporal punishment and harsh prison
19 conditions by advocating for a better way to rehabilitate

1 incarcerated individuals; and

2 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Prison Society was the designer of
3 the first penitentiary in the world, the Eastern State
4 Penitentiary in Philadelphia; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Prison Society established separate
6 confinement for men, women, children and those with mental
7 illness; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Prison Society pioneered the model
9 of prison visitation which has continued for more than two
10 centuries and the concept is now supported by statute; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Prison Society's staff, board,
12 volunteers and members continue its historic role of advocating
13 for humane treatment and justice through educational projects,
14 direct services and advocacy efforts, such as reentry and
15 mentoring services, parenting classes, transportation services
16 for families to prisons across the State, individual and issue
17 advocacy and official visits; and

18 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Prison Society will hold its 230th
19 consecutive annual meeting on May 3, 2017 at the Eastern State
20 Penitentiary; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That, while the House of Representatives recognizes
22 the need for punishment proportionate to the crime, the House of
23 Representatives honor the Pennsylvania Prison Society on its
24 230th anniversary of advocating for those in prison and their
25 families, commemorate the achievements of the organization and
26 highlight the continued need for the work of the Pennsylvania
27 Prison Society.