
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 691 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY V. BROWN, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, NEILSON AND
DONATUCCI, FEBRUARY 16, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 16, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the potential long-term health impacts of exposure
2 to cell phone radiation.

3 WHEREAS, Cell phones are ubiquitous and are an essential
4 means of communication in modern society; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 90% of American adults use cell phones;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Cell phones communicate with cell phone towers using
8 radiofrequency (RF) waves, a type of non-ionizing
9 electromagnetic radiation; and

10 WHEREAS, The only proven effect of RF waves on human tissue
11 is an increase in temperature, and studies reviewing the effects
12 of that warming have been largely inconclusive; and

13 WHEREAS, There is currently no evidence that RF waves
14 increase cancer risk; and

15 WHEREAS, The risk from long-term, low-level exposure is still
16 unknown; and

17 WHEREAS, A recent study from the National Toxicology Program,

1 part of the National Institutes of Health, found that male rats
2 had an elevated risk for certain heart tumors when chronically
3 exposed to RF waves; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2011, the World Health Organization's
5 International Agency for Research on Cancer declared cell phones
6 a possible carcinogen; and

7 WHEREAS, Studies examining the relationship between cell
8 phones and cancer in humans have, thus far, produced mixed or
9 inconclusive results; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2015, a group of 190 independent scientists from
11 39 countries signed a letter calling on the United Nations and
12 its constituent members to foster the development of guidelines
13 for exposure to RF waves and other types of electromagnetic
14 radiation associated with modern technology; and

15 WHEREAS, Besides cancers, other health issues possibly caused
16 by cell phone use include lower sperm counts, headaches and
17 problems with learning, memory, hearing and sleep; and

18 WHEREAS, The California Department of Public Health recently
19 released draft guidelines regarding the potential health impacts
20 of cell phone use and recommendations for reducing exposure to
21 RF waves; and

22 WHEREAS, The simplest way to reduce exposure to RF waves is
23 to keep cell phones away from the head and the body; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals can use a speakerphone or headset, send
25 a text message instead of calling and avoid storing cell phones
26 in their clothing in order to reduce exposure to RF waves; and

27 WHEREAS, RF waves are stronger when reception is weak, in a
28 fast-moving vehicle, streaming audio and video or downloading
29 and sending large files; and

30 WHEREAS, Parents may want to limit their children's cell

1 phone use; and

2 WHEREAS, While there is currently no proven causal link
3 between cell phone use and cancer, Pennsylvanians can still take
4 some basic precautions to minimize exposure to RF waves; and

5 WHEREAS, Because cell phones are so ubiquitous, any health
6 issues stemming from their use have the potential to create a
7 substantial public health problem; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
9 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognize and bring attention to
10 the potential long-term health impacts of exposure to cell phone
11 radiation; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the
13 Governor of Pennsylvania and to each member of Congress from
14 Pennsylvania.