

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 143 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY DRUCKER, BAKER, BELFANTI, BEYER, BRENNAN, BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, GRUCELA, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, MENSCH, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MILNE, MOUL, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PRESTON, QUINN, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROSS, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SWANGER, TRUE, VEREB, VULAKOVICH, WATSON AND PICKETT, MARCH 13, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MARCH 13, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of April 12 through 18, 2009, as "Local
2 Government Week" and April 15, 2009, as "Local Government
3 Day" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Local government in Pennsylvania is a mosaic of more
5 than 4,500 individual units with 67 counties, more than 50
6 cities, nearly 1,500 townships of the second class, nearly 100
7 townships of the first class, more than 950 boroughs, one
8 incorporated town, 500 school districts and more than 1,500
9 authorities; and

10 WHEREAS, In addition to county government, every single
11 Pennsylvanian lives, works and plays within a local government;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, While each unit is distinct and independent of the
14 others, they all act in concert to improve the quality of life

1 of the more than 12 million residents of this Commonwealth; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania local government is the epitome of a
3 "grassroots" operation and most local government elected
4 officials are ordinary citizens who choose to serve their
5 community; and

6 WHEREAS, Government service is not their full-time profession
7 or occupation; instead they may be farmers, doctors, steel
8 workers, teachers or local business owners; and

9 WHEREAS, These dedicated individuals bring new ways of
10 tackling old problems and fresh approaches to local government
11 issues from other areas of their life and, through time and
12 experience, develop expertise in both government administration
13 and an intimate knowledge of the unique needs of their
14 communities; and

15 WHEREAS, This "citizen-official" is the backbone of local
16 government in Pennsylvania and local government is the
17 foundation of the American system of democracy; and

18 WHEREAS, On a daily basis, they serve on the front lines of
19 the vast majority of interactions between citizens and their
20 government and are responsible for providing a staggering number
21 of public services directly to Commonwealth residents; and

22 WHEREAS, The scope of these municipal functions and
23 responsibilities is broad and includes, among other things,
24 police protection, parking and traffic control, maintenance of
25 local streets and roads, water supply, sewage collection and
26 treatment, local planning and zoning, parks and recreation,
27 garbage collection, health services, libraries, schools,
28 licensing of businesses and code enforcement; and

29 WHEREAS, While local government elected officials are at the
30 heart of community activity and in a unique position to get many

1 things done for their community, they also face a seemingly
2 never ending list of duties, obligations, tough decisions and
3 thankless jobs; and

4 WHEREAS, To help get the work done, local government elected
5 officials rely heavily on local government professionals who
6 have chosen to make local government their life work and without
7 whom local governments could not exist in a modern community;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, These professionals follow careers in fields such as
10 city and regional planning, community development and housing,
11 public health and hospital administration, parks and recreation,
12 public welfare and community social work, library service,
13 transportation and traffic control, finance, administration,
14 engineering, law enforcement and legal services; and

15 WHEREAS, Together, local government elected officials and
16 local government professionals make important decisions every
17 day affecting the lives of every single one of us; and

18 WHEREAS, It is only fitting that each year we set aside one
19 week as "Local Government Week" and one day as "Local Government
20 Day" in this Commonwealth; and

21 WHEREAS, "Local Government Week" and "Local Government Day"
22 focus attention on the need for these strong, independent and
23 active local governments in Pennsylvania and officially
24 recognize the many valuable contributions made by these citizens
25 who serve their communities in public office; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
27 week of April 12 through 18, 2009, as "Local Government Week"
28 and April 15, 2009, as "Local Government Day" in Pennsylvania.