

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 67 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY MCILHINNEY, TOMLINSON, GREENLEAF AND WONDERLING,
MARCH 31, 2009

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 31, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of April 2009 as "Children and Nature
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, During September 2008, the United States House of
4 Representatives voted to approve the No Child Left Inside Act of
5 2008 with the intent to require school systems to improve upon
6 environmental literacy, strengthen teacher training and provide
7 Federal grants to help schools fund outdoor education; and

8 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Inside Act was backed by
9 nationwide support from the rapidly growing No Child Left Inside
10 coalitions, including the No Child Left Inside - Bucks County
11 Coalition, whose vast and diverse membership includes
12 nonprofits, environmental organizations, recreational
13 organizations, municipalities, Bucks County Departments of
14 Health and Parks and Recreation, State legislators and the
15 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and

16 WHEREAS, All members of the No Child Left Inside - Bucks
17 County Coalition recognize the pervasive need to help this
18 Commonwealth, its counties and municipalities and to provide

1 high-quality outdoor recreation and environmental instruction;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, A growing body of research indicates that a lack of
4 outdoor activity corresponds to increased rates in childhood
5 obesity, juvenile diabetes and attention deficit disorders; and

6 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation and Natural
7 Resources, the Bucks County Department of Parks and Recreation
8 and the Department of Health all work toward the goals of
9 reducing chronic illness in children, promoting physical
10 activity and healthy eating habits and educating and mobilizing
11 communities; and

12 WHEREAS, The members of the No Child Left Inside - Bucks
13 County Coalition work collectively to reconnect children and
14 nature via a growing network of individuals, organizations,
15 agencies and all levels of government to develop and promote
16 opportunities for all children to experience frequent, regular
17 play and exploration in natural outdoor settings; and

18 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Inside - Bucks County Coalition is
19 committed to the ongoing promotion of programs, policies and
20 practices that will reconnect children and nature in enduring,
21 meaningful ways that utilize the wealth of natural resources and
22 recreational opportunities afforded by the careful planning of
23 the General Assembly of this Commonwealth; and

24 WHEREAS, The No Child Left Inside - Bucks County Coalition
25 will host a community event, Turn Off, Step Out, Tune In...To
26 Nature, on April 11, 2009, at Doylestown Township's Central Park
27 in the County of Bucks; and

28 WHEREAS, Representatives from various organizations,
29 including the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
30 will provide opportunities to educate and inspire families to

1 reconnect with nature and this Commonwealth's parks, preserved
2 natural areas and recreation facilities; therefore be it
3 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of April 2009
4 as "Children and Nature Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.