

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 910 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, BEAR, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN,
CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DAY, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GEIST,
GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS,
HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MILLARD,
MILLER, MOUL, MURT, PEIFER, PETRARCA, PICKETT, PYLE, QUINN,
RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, SCAVELLO, STABACK, STEVENSON,
TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH, BENNINGHOFF, GILLESPIE, SACCONI AND
HAHN, MARCH 14, 2011

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
JUNE 12, 2012

AN ACT

1 Designating the Pennsylvania Long Rifle as the official firearm
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania AND THE PIPER J-3 CUB AS
3 THE OFFICIAL STATE AIRCRAFT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
4 PENNSYLVANIA. ←

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's gunmaking tradition has played an
6 important role in the development of the United States of
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, During Pennsylvania's early history, settlers placed
9 chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and
10 survival; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Long Rifle, a unique firearm that
12 was different in principle and outline from any other weapon in
13 the world, was developed by skilled gunsmiths in the Moravian
14 communities of Christian's Spring, Northampton County, as well
15 as by artistic riflemaker Martin Meylin, in Willow Street,

1 Lancaster County; and

2 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Long Rifle was the first truly
3 American firearm and, due to its exceptional accuracy and range,
4 was considered the greatest achievement in the development of
5 firearms during the 18th century; and

6 WHEREAS, Playing an important role in the early years of the
7 Industrial Revolution in Pennsylvania and New England, the
8 Pennsylvania Long Rifle was also instrumental in the American
9 fur trade and was carried west and south by frontiersmen as they
10 set out to expand the boundaries of the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Long Rifle has been lauded for its
12 beauty and craftsmanship, as well as the ingenuity of the
13 skilled gunsmiths who crafted it; and

14 WHEREAS, The color combinations, carvings, engravings and
15 graceful slenderness of the Pennsylvania Long Rifle cause it to
16 stand alone and remain unchallenged as a primary example of
17 early American art; and

18 WHEREAS, Future generations deserve the right to appreciate
19 the heritage of this long-barreled rifle, born to artistic
20 gunsmiths in the communities of the Commonwealth of
21 Pennsylvania; AND



22 WHEREAS, THE PIPER J-3 CUB IS A SMALL, SIMPLE, LIGHT
23 AIRCRAFT, RECOGNIZABLE BY ITS FAMOUS YELLOW FUSELAGE AND BLACK
24 TRIM, THAT WAS BUILT IN THE CITY OF LOCK HAVEN, CLINTON COUNTY,
25 BETWEEN 1937 AND 1947 BY PIPER AIRCRAFT; AND

26 WHEREAS, DURING THAT TIME PERIOD, 19,076 CUBS WERE PRODUCED
27 IN LOCK HAVEN; AND

28 WHEREAS, WITH TANDEM SEATING, THE CUB WAS INTENDED FOR FLIGHT
29 TRAINING BUT BECAME ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND BEST-KNOWN LIGHT
30 AIRCRAFT OF ALL TIME AMONG THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POPULATION;

1 AND

2 WHEREAS, THE CUB'S SIMPLICITY, AFFORDABILITY AND POPULARITY
3 INVOKE COMPARISONS TO THE FORD MODEL T AUTOMOBILE; AND

4 WHEREAS, THE CUB WAS MODIFIED AND USED BY THE UNITED STATES
5 ARMED FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II FOR RECONNAISSANCE AND AS A
6 HEDGEHOPPER OVER ALL KINDS OF TERRAIN TO CARRY PERSONNEL,
7 CRITICAL SUPPLIES AND IMPORTANT MESSAGES FOR THE ARTILLERY AND
8 TANK CORPS, AND CAVALRY AND INFANTRY.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Official State firearm.

12 The Pennsylvania Long Rifle is hereby designated as the
13 official firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

14 SECTION 2. OFFICIAL STATE AIRCRAFT. ←

15 THE AIRCRAFT KNOWN AS THE PIPER J-3 CUB IS SELECTED,
16 DESIGNATED AND ADOPTED AS THE OFFICIAL STATE AIRCRAFT OF THE
17 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA.

18 Section 2 3. Effective date. ←

19 This act shall take effect immediately.