

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 540 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY HORNAMAN, SONNEY, FABRIZIO, HARKINS, J. EVANS,
BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, D. COSTA, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO,
EVERETT, GEORGE, GERGELY, GOODMAN, HENNESSEY, HESS,
HUTCHINSON, KOTIK, MCGEEHAN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MULLERY,
M. O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI, READSHAW, SABATINA, STABACK, STERN AND
YOUNGBLOOD, JANUARY 24, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JANUARY
24, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing Erie County as the Freshwater Fishing Capital of
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Erie County is situated on the shores of Lake Erie
4 and is the only county in this Commonwealth bordering this Great
5 Lake; and

6 WHEREAS, As the 11th largest lake in the world, Lake Erie
7 offers 76.6 miles of shoreline in Erie County, including
8 numerous tributaries and the Presque Isle Bay, according to a
9 recently completed survey and assessment by the Department of
10 Environmental Protection; and

11 WHEREAS, Although Lake Erie was once considered "dead" in the
12 1970's due to excessive pollution and nutrient loading, the lake
13 has rebounded dramatically over the past several decades as a
14 result of water conservation efforts and Federal laws such as
15 the Great Lakes Water Quality Act, and it is now considered the

1 cleanest of the Great Lakes; and

2 WHEREAS, The coastal region of Erie County offers camping,
3 hiking and breathtaking scenic beauty at Presque Isle State
4 Park, a 3,200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, With access to an expansive body of water
7 approximately 250 miles long and 50 miles wide from Presque Isle
8 State Park and other local marinas, recreational boating
9 opportunities abound from the Erie County shoreline; and

10 WHEREAS, While Presque Isle State Park and the Erie County
11 coastline provide many recreational opportunities, the region
12 has rapidly become recognized as a destination spot for anglers;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, As the warmest and most productive fishery in the
15 Great Lakes, Lake Erie has an abundance of game fish, with an
16 average of 1.5 million fish caught each year; and

17 WHEREAS, The distinct terrain of Lake Erie, which offers both
18 cold and warm water fisheries, results in an unusual species
19 diversity not commonly found in other water bodies; and

20 WHEREAS, This diversity includes fish, such as rock bass,
21 largemouth and smallmouth bass, white bass, muskellunge,
22 northern pike, longnose gar, sturgeon, whitefish and more well-
23 known species such as steelhead, walleye and yellow perch; and

24 WHEREAS, While steelhead fishing occurs year-round in the
25 region, fall and winter offers thrilling sport fishing
26 opportunities for steelhead on the Erie County shoreline as
27 these fish migrate upstream to spawn in local tributaries; and

28 WHEREAS, Tributaries in Erie County, such as Elk, Walnut and
29 Twenty Mile Creek, are renowned for steelhead fishing and the
30 area is now considered one of the top trophy fisheries in the

1 country; and

2 WHEREAS, The walleye, another game fish eagerly sought by
3 fishermen, is a member of the perch family that lives and spawns
4 in the lake, and as top predators, they provide anglers young
5 and old alike with plenty of excitement and have helped Lake
6 Erie earn the distinction as the "Walleye Capital of the World";
7 and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to these two game fish, the yellow perch
9 can also be found in large schools along the Erie County
10 coastline, and while these fish are not at the top of the food
11 chain and do not typically reach the size of mature steelhead or
12 walleye, they are recognized by many as one of the best tasting
13 fish found in Lake Erie; and

14 WHEREAS, Residents of the Erie County shoreline have long
15 appreciated the region as a special natural resource offering
16 breathtaking beauty and recreational activities, and the
17 improved water quality, stewardship and hospitality of Erie
18 County residents have produced a fishing experience unparalleled
19 in quality and opportunities, annually attracting thousands of
20 fishermen from throughout the country; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize Erie
22 County as the Freshwater Fishing Capital of Pennsylvania.