
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 110 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY DEAN, J. HARRIS, D. COSTA, KORTZ, ROZZI, MATZIE,
PASHINSKI, V. BROWN, FLYNN, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD,
LONGIETTI, MUSTIO, HARKINS, CONKLIN, SANTARSIERO, B. BOYLE,
DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, MOLCHANY, THOMAS, COHEN, PAINTER,
EVERETT, HENNESSEY, BENNINGHOFF, READSHAW, MAHONEY, DeLUCA,
BARRAR, GROVE, BROWNLEE, KINSEY, MURT, FRANKEL, GOODMAN,
PARKER, MCCARTER, FABRIZIO AND GIBBONS, FEBRUARY 25, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 25, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Commonwealth of
2 Pennsylvania's voting to ratify the 24th Amendment to the
3 Constitution of the United States on March 25, 2013.

4 WHEREAS, On March 25, 1963, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 voted to ratify the 24th Amendment to the Constitution of the
6 United States; and

7 WHEREAS, On January 23, 1964, the United States ratified the
8 24th Amendment to the Constitution, prohibiting any poll tax in
9 elections for Federal officials; and

10 WHEREAS, The 24th Amendment provides that it is "the right of
11 citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other
12 election for President or Vice President, for electors for
13 President or Vice President, or for Senator or Representative in
14 Congress" and that this right "shall not be denied or abridged
15 by the United States, or any State by reason of failure to pay

1 any poll tax or other tax"; and

2 WHEREAS, Dating back to the Reconstruction Era, poll taxes
3 were used for decades throughout the South to prevent
4 impoverished people, particularly African Americans, from
5 exercising their right to vote; and

6 WHEREAS, The most basic right of a citizen in a democracy is
7 the right to vote, for without this right, people can be easily
8 ignored and even abused by their government; and

9 WHEREAS, Florida Senator Spessard Holland first proposed the
10 24th Amendment in 1949; and

11 WHEREAS, Thirteen years later, in September 1962, the 24th
12 Amendment was finally submitted to the states for ratification;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, At the time of ratification, five states, Alabama,
15 Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas and Virginia, still retained the
16 poll tax; and

17 WHEREAS, The new amendment abolished poll taxes for Federal
18 elections, and in 1966, the United States Supreme Court, in
19 *Harper v. Virginia State Board of Elections*, abolished poll
20 taxes for state elections; and

21 WHEREAS, The 24th Amendment helped pave the way for further
22 voting rights legislation, leading to the passage, a year and a
23 half later, of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed
24 disfranchisement practices common across the South; and

25 WHEREAS, Upon formalizing the 24th Amendment, President
26 Lyndon Johnson noted that "There can be no one too poor to
27 vote"; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
29 importance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's vote to ratify
30 the 24th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States on

1 March 25, 2013; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That because of the 24th Amendment, the right of
3 all United States citizens to freely cast their votes has been
4 secured.