
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 611 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, ROAE, ROZZI, MACKENZIE, MILLARD,
D. PARKER, R. BROWN, READSHAW, VEREB, HENNESSEY, MAJOR,
THOMAS, SONNEY, DUSH, EVERETT, MILNE, SACCONI, KIM, HARHART,
WHEELAND, D. COSTA, B. MILLER, WARD, YOUNGBLOOD, KAUFER,
GIBBONS, MURT, KAUFFMAN, PETRI, GOODMAN AND PHILLIPS-HILL,
DECEMBER 5, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 5, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of December 7 through 13, 2015, as
2 "Government Reform Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians expect and deserve a more
4 accountable, efficient, transparent, fiscally responsible and
5 effective government; and

6 WHEREAS, The Center for Public Integrity's State Integrity
7 Investigation, released in November 2015, ranked Pennsylvania
8 45th nationwide in government integrity; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was among 11 states that received a
10 failing grade; and

11 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth received an "F" in seven
12 subtopics: Political Financing, Electoral Oversight, Legislative
13 Accountability, Judicial Accountability, State Civil Service
14 Management, Ethics Enforcement Agencies and State Pension Fund
15 Management; and

1 WHEREAS, The failing grade marks a slide for this
2 Commonwealth from the "C-" grade and a 20th-place ranking earned
3 in a similar assessment published in 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, A relatively bright spot in the report is our 4th-
5 place ranking relating to laws and processes that provide public
6 access to government records; and

7 WHEREAS, While that particular ranking demonstrates the
8 Commonwealth's progress in the area of government transparency,
9 the grade indicates that efforts to improve government
10 transparency must continue; and

11 WHEREAS, Chapman University in Orange, California, recently
12 conducted its 2nd annual Survey of American Fears in order to
13 pinpoint what Americans fear the most; and

14 WHEREAS, Corruption of government officials was the fear that
15 ranked the highest among Americans surveyed, at 58% per all
16 respondents; and

17 WHEREAS, The findings of this study emphasize that reform is
18 not a choice, but a necessity; and

19 WHEREAS, "Government Reform Week" is a time to take stock of
20 the function of State government over the past year while
21 looking forward to the reforms that should be enacted in the
22 year ahead; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
24 week of December 7 through 13, 2015, as "Government Reform Week"
25 in Pennsylvania.