

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 747 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY RAVENSTAHL, VEREB, FREEMAN, V. BROWN, COHEN,
MACKENZIE, HENNESSEY, KIRKLAND, BURNS, READSHAW, LONGIETTI,
DONATUCCI, DUSH, SONNEY, TOOHL, KIM, D. COSTA, BAKER, ROSS,
MILLARD, O'BRIEN, BULLOCK, ROZZI, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, MUSTIO,
WARD, SNYDER, WATSON, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE, MARSICO,
PICKETT, PAYNE, WHEELAND, NEILSON, MATZIE, MILNE, YOUNGBLOOD,
DEASY, GOODMAN, DeLUCA, GIBBONS AND REGAN, MARCH 18, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 18, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 20 through 26, 2016, as "Poison
2 Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, more than 2 million poisonings are
4 reported to poison centers across the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, Approximately half of all poison exposure cases
6 involve children under six years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, A majority of poisonings occur in the home where
8 analgesics, cosmetics or other personal care products, household
9 cleaning products and prescription drugs are subject to exposure
10 or improper use; and

11 WHEREAS, On September 16, 1961, Congress established
12 "National Poison Prevention Week," and shortly thereafter the
13 Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate this
14 annual event and promote poison prevention; and

15 WHEREAS, "National Poison Prevention Week" is observed

1 annually during the third week in March to promote public
2 education on ways to prevent poisonings; and

3 WHEREAS, Though most consumer products pose no hazard to
4 human health if used properly, many common household products,
5 including opioid medications and cleaning products, can become
6 poisonous; and

7 WHEREAS, Across the United States, 55 poison control centers
8 operate to assist the public with poison emergencies and to
9 respond to questions about poison prevention and exposure to
10 poisons; and

11 WHEREAS, Two poison control centers, the Pittsburgh Poison
12 Center of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the
13 Poison Control Center at the Children's Hospital of
14 Philadelphia, operate in this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, Each year, the Pittsburgh Poison Control Center
16 responds to more than 100,000 requests for poison information
17 from the general public and medical professionals and regularly
18 conducts community education and outreach programs in western
19 Pennsylvania; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh Poison Control Center is a nationally
21 recognized poison information control center and has developed a
22 regional network of hospital treatment centers throughout this
23 Commonwealth to ensure the utmost care in all referred cases of
24 poison exposure; and

25 WHEREAS, Due to escalating health care costs, investment in
26 poison control centers is of vital importance to reduce
27 emergency room visits and the length of hospital stays, avoid
28 unnecessary hospital admissions and limit the use of expensive
29 therapies and extraneous laboratory testing; and

30 WHEREAS, For every \$1 invested in poison control centers, an

1 estimated \$13 is saved in health care expenditures; therefore be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
4 week of March 20 through 26, 2016, as "Poison Prevention Week"
5 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
7 residents to become aware of common sense tips to prevent
8 poisonings, such as safely storing poisonous substances, using
9 poisonous substances as directed, ensuring that children are
10 taught to ask before using a poisonous substance and keeping the
11 poison control center toll-free telephone number of 1-800-222-
12 1222 in an easily accessible location; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
14 outstanding work done by the employees and volunteers at the
15 poison control centers in this Commonwealth who assist in saving
16 lives by responding to emergencies and teaching the public how
17 to prevent poisonings.