

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 70 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY ARGALL, DUSH, BOSCOLA, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA,
PHILLIPS-HILL, AUMENT, SCHWANK, BREWSTER AND COSTA,
MARCH 15, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 15, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 12 through 18, 2023, as "Sunshine
2 Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The currently enacted version of Pennsylvania's
4 Sunshine Act developed from legislation introduced and
5 originally passed by the Senate in 1998; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law also has its
7 genesis in the Senate, with legislation introduced and passed as
8 Senate Bill No. 1 in 2008; and

9 WHEREAS, Both the Sunshine Act and the Right-to-Know Law
10 ensure public access to government information through public
11 meetings and public documents; and

12 WHEREAS, Public access to meetings and records is fundamental
13 to our residents' ability to be well informed of government
14 actions and to hold government officials accountable; and

15 WHEREAS, The Sunshine Act requires public agencies to hold
16 public meetings any time a quorum deliberates agency business or
17 takes official action; and

1 WHEREAS, The Sunshine Act requires public agencies to allow
2 the public to comment on matters of agency business and to
3 record public meetings; and

4 WHEREAS, The Right-to-Know Law is based on the presumption
5 that records in possession of government agencies are public
6 records and must be provided to the public within the framework
7 of the law; and

8 WHEREAS, The Right-to-Know Law provides residents with a
9 fair, simple, no-cost method to appeal when a request has been
10 denied; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of March 12
12 through 18, 2023, as "Sunshine Week" in Pennsylvania; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate urge all residents of this
15 Commonwealth to join in this observance of the basic principles
16 of an open and accessible government in a free society.