
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 629 Session of
2006

INTRODUCED BY CASORIO, CALTAGIRONE, CURRY, FABRIZIO, KOTIK,
MARKOSEK, MELIO, PALLONE, PETRONE, READSHAW, SANTONI,
SHAPIRO, TANGRETTI, VITALI AND WOJNAROSKI, MARCH 7, 2006

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 7, 2006

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2006 as "Public Television Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Public television in the United States began at WQED
4 in Pittsburgh in 1954 and is beginning its second half-century
5 of service to the Commonwealth and its citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, Eight public television stations: WHYY and WYBE,
7 Philadelphia; WLVT, Bethlehem; WVIA, Pittston; WITF, Harrisburg;
8 Penn State Public Broadcasting, State College; WQED, Pittsburgh;
9 and WQLN, Erie, now provide broadcast service to 99% of the
10 Commonwealth's households and nonbroadcast service accessible to
11 every Pennsylvanian; and

12 WHEREAS, These eight public television stations and the
13 Pennsylvania Public Television Network that provides the
14 technical infrastructure connecting them are committed to
15 educate, inform, enlighten and entertain the citizens of this
16 Commonwealth; and

17 WHEREAS, Each station is locally owned and operated, an

1 increasingly rare phenomenon in this age of communications
2 conglomerates, and each station is rooted in and focused on the
3 needs of its local area; and

4 WHEREAS, Public television in Pennsylvania provides lifelong
5 learning services from preschool through college and work force
6 development courses, serves as the backup for the Commonwealth's
7 emergency preparedness system, partners with cultural and
8 tourism organizations to expand the horizons of Pennsylvanians
9 and produces programs of local, regional, national and
10 international interest; and

11 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth encourages the public television
12 stations to serve the collective needs of its citizens through
13 an annual appropriation of less than \$1 per citizen; and

14 WHEREAS, Public television has long been a leader in
15 developing and applying the latest technology to serve its
16 viewers, including terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, fiber
17 optic transmission lines, color television and most recently
18 digital television, with WITF in Harrisburg becoming the first
19 digital television station in this Commonwealth and one of the
20 first seven public television stations nationally to broadcast
21 digital content in 1998; and

22 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania public television stations have all
23 become important multimedia outlets for education, news,
24 information and entertainment, using broadcast, Internet and
25 publishing resources; and

26 WHEREAS, The stations' investment in digital technology, with
27 assistance from the Commonwealth, has created enormous
28 opportunities for enhanced and expanded service through
29 datacasting, multicasting and high-definition television;
30 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of March 2006 as "Public Television Month" in Pennsylvania
3 in recognition of the services public television provides to the
4 citizens of this Commonwealth; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives extend
6 congratulations to the Commonwealth's eight public television
7 stations and to the Pennsylvania Public Television Network for
8 50 years of service to the Commonwealth and offer best wishes
9 for the years to come.