
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 169

Session of
1975

INTRODUCED BY IRVIS, BUTERA, BARBER, ROSS, HAMMOCK, RICHARDSON,
VANN, SHELTON, BLACKWELL, OLIVER, JOHNSON, POLITE, MANDERINO
AND FINEMAN, OCTOBER 1, 1975

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, OCTOBER 1, 1975

In the House of Representatives, October 1, 1975

1 WHEREAS, 1975 marks the 20th year since approval by the
2 Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor George M. Leader of
3 the Fair Employment Practice Act of October 27, 1955 which
4 prohibited discrimination in employment because of race, color,
5 religion, national origin, ancestry and age; and

6 WHEREAS, The first members of the Fair Employment Practice
7 Commission were sworn in on March 2, 1956; and

8 WHEREAS, Additional human rights protection was added:

9 In 1961, to prohibit discrimination in housing, education and
10 public places. The 1961 amendment also changed the name of the
11 act to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and the name of the
12 commission to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

13 In 1965, to require the posting of fair practice notices.

14 In 1966, to permit injunctions in housing complaints, extend
15 the employment provisions of that law to cover employers of six
16 or more persons and provide for court enforcement of orders
17 issued by that body.

1 In 1967, the housing provisions were expanded to prohibit
2 discrimination against persons using guide dogs and further
3 broaden the housing provisions.

4 In 1968, to cover religious observance by public employees.

5 In 1969, to prohibit discrimination because of sex.

6 In 1970, to provide for nonsectarian cemeteries.

7 In 1972, to prohibit discrimination in places of public
8 accommodation against any person using a guide dog.

9 In 1973, to extend the employment provisions to protect
10 persons from discrimination because of their willingness or
11 refusal to cooperate in abortions or sterilizations.

12 In 1974, to extend protection to persons discriminated
13 against because of handicaps or disabilities; and

14 WHEREAS, The 20th anniversary of the passage of the
15 Pennsylvania Fair Employment Practice Act has given this
16 Assembly cause to reflect on its history of equal treatment laws
17 for the Commonwealth and the accomplishments of the Pennsylvania
18 Human Relations Commission; and

19 WHEREAS, It is of great importance that the citizens of this
20 great Commonwealth be advised of the human rights protection
21 afforded under the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act; therefore
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That September 29, 1975, be commemorated "Equal
24 Rights Day" in Pennsylvania.