

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 392      Session of  
2000

---

INTRODUCED BY ROHRER, ARMSTRONG, PETRARCA, YEWCIC, ARGALL,  
BAKER, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BROWNE, CALTAGIRONE,  
CAPPABIANCA, CLYMER, M. COHEN, CORRIGAN, DAILEY, DALEY,  
FAIRCHILD, FARGO, FEESE, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FLICK, HARHART,  
HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, LEDERER, LEH, LESCOVITZ, MAITLAND,  
MAJOR, MARSICO, MASLAND, McNAUGHTON, METCALFE, ORIE, PIPPY,  
PISTELLA, READSHAW, RUBLEY, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SCHULER,  
SEYFERT, S. H. SMITH, STABACK, STAIRS, STERN, E. Z. TAYLOR,  
THOMAS, TRUE, WILT, WOGAN, WOJNAROSKI, WRIGHT, McCALL AND  
SATHER, MARCH 8, 2000

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MARCH 8, 2000

---

## A RESOLUTION

1 Declaring May 7 through 13, 2000, as "Pennsylvania Home  
2 Education Week" in this Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes that healthy families  
4 are the fundamental building blocks of a strong society; and

5 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth also recognizes that parental  
6 commitment to and involvement in their children's nurture and  
7 education are essential elements of a healthy family; and

8 WHEREAS, The learning alternative generally referred to as  
9 home education requires parents to be actively involved in their  
10 children's education and upbringing; and

11 WHEREAS, The practice of home education boasts a long and  
12 notable history in our nation, having been the primary mode of  
13 learning when our nation enjoyed its highest level of literacy,

1 and has produced such respected Americans as Thomas Edison,  
2 Franklin D. Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Mark Twain, Andrew  
3 Carnegie, Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, Patrick Henry  
4 and George Washington; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly  
6 affirmed the role of parental responsibility in the lives of  
7 children with statements such as:

8 The child is not the mere creature of the state; those  
9 who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right and  
10 the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for  
11 additional obligations;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth acknowledges this same  
14 constitutional principle with the following statement in the  
15 Public School Code of 1949:

16 It is the policy of the Commonwealth to preserve the  
17 primary right and the obligation of the parent or  
18 parents, or person or persons in loco parentis to a  
19 child, to choose the education and training for such  
20 child;

21 and

22 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth statutorily recognizes the legality  
23 of home education as an education option and has accorded it  
24 equal legal standing with public, private and nonpublic  
25 education; and

26 WHEREAS, The 105th Congress of the United States commended  
27 home education, recognizing it as a valuable part of our  
28 nation's efforts to prepare its youth for the demands of society  
29 at the edge of a new century, and passed legislation protecting  
30 the rights of home-educated graduates who apply for college

1 funding or enlist in the military; and

2 WHEREAS, Over 1.5 million children are in home education  
3 programs, with more than 20,000 of these children being  
4 Pennsylvania residents; and

5 WHEREAS, Home education is growing dramatically each year and  
6 attracts families from all walks of life, including members of  
7 Congress and the General Assembly; and

8 WHEREAS, The academic success of home education is well-  
9 documented on the elementary, secondary and postsecondary  
10 levels; and

11 WHEREAS, Research also finds that home education is an  
12 excellent setting for healthy socialization and effectively  
13 prepares children to successfully contribute to society by  
14 providing students with many opportunities for real-life  
15 activities within their communities, giving them interaction  
16 with people of many ages and backgrounds and creating a learning  
17 environment where values may be incorporated into the  
18 curriculum; and

19 WHEREAS, Home education takes advantage of the many benefits  
20 of tutorial learning and the individualized, flexible  
21 instruction it allows and provides a safe, nondistracting  
22 learning environment; and

23 WHEREAS, Research shows that the academic performance of  
24 home-educated students is not dependent on the level of their  
25 parents' education or income, nor is it dependent on the degree  
26 of regulation imposed by the State; and

27 WHEREAS, Families who educate their children make a  
28 tremendous contribution to this Commonwealth by financially  
29 providing for their children's education and molding productive  
30 citizens who will lead the nation in the 21st century; therefore

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and commend  
3 home education and the thousands of students and families  
4 involved for their dedication, hard work and accomplishments and  
5 for their very significant contribution to the success of our  
6 State in the next millennium; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives declare the week  
8 of May 7 through 13, 2000, as "Pennsylvania Home Education Week"  
9 in this Commonwealth and express congratulations and  
10 appreciation to home schools across this Commonwealth on the  
11 occasion of "Pennsylvania Home Education Week" in 2000.