

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 319 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY ARMSTRONG, ADOLPH, ALLEN, ARGALL, BAKER, BALDWIN, BARD, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, BROWNE, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, COLEMAN, CORRIGAN, COSTA, COY, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY, DALLY, DeLUCA, DENLINGER, DERMODY, DeWEESE, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EGOLF, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FEESE, FICHTER, FLEAGLE, FORCIER, FREEMAN, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART, HARPER, HARRIS, HASAY, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KELLER, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN, LEACH, LEDERER, LEH, LESCOVITZ, LEWIS, MACKERETH, MAITLAND, MAJOR, MANDERINO, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, McGEEHAN, McGILL, McILHATTAN, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, READSHAW, REED, REICHLEY, ROBERTS, ROHRER, ROSS, RUBLEY, SANTONI, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SCRIMENTI, SEMMEL, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STERN, R. STEVENSON, STURLA, TANGRETTI, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRAVAGLIO, TURZAI, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATERS, WHEATLEY, WILT, YOUNGBLOOD AND ZUG, JUNE 17, 2003

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 17, 2003

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of October 5 through 11, 2003, as "Fire
2 Prevention Week."

3 WHEREAS, In 2001 there were 383,500 home fires in the United
4 States, resulting in 3,110 deaths, 15,200 injuries and \$5.5
5 billion in direct property damage; and

6 WHEREAS, Home fires, which have declined fairly steadily
7 since 1978, were down by nearly half in 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, Only 1999 had a lower home fire death total, 2,895,

1 in the past quarter-century; and

2 WHEREAS, Nationwide, there is a home fire death every 170
3 minutes; and

4 WHEREAS, Half of all home fire deaths have resulted from
5 fires reported between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., though only one-fourth
6 of home fires occur during these hours; and

7 WHEREAS, January is the peak month for home fire deaths,
8 February ranks second and December third; and

9 WHEREAS, Smoking is the leading cause of home fire deaths
10 overall, but in the months of December, January and February,
11 smoking and heating equipment have caused similar shares of fire
12 deaths; and

13 WHEREAS, Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home
14 fire injuries year-round; and

15 WHEREAS, Although children five years of age and under make
16 up about 9% of the country's population, they account for 17% of
17 home fire deaths, a risk twice the national average; and

18 WHEREAS, Adults 65 years of age and older also face a risk
19 twice the average, while people 85 years of age and older have a
20 risk that is almost 4.5 times more than average; and

21 WHEREAS, Only one-fifth of home fire deaths from 1989-1998
22 were caused by fires in which a smoke alarm was present and
23 operational; and

24 WHEREAS, Most fatal fires kill one or two people; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2001, 22 home fires killed five or more people;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, These 22 fires resulted in 125 deaths, accounting
28 for 4% of all home fire deaths that year; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
30 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designate the week of October 5

1 through 11, 2003, as "Fire Prevention Week."