

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 966 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY YAW, ALLOWAY, BREWSTER, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, HUGHES
AND SOLOBAY, APRIL 13, 2011

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, APRIL 13, 2011

AN ACT

1 Selecting, designating and adopting the timber rattlesnake as
2 the official reptile of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake is one of three venomous
4 snakes that occur in Pennsylvania; and

5 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake lives primarily in
6 mountainous areas of the State, above 1,800 feet in elevation;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The scientific name for the timber rattlesnake is
9 Crotalus horridus; and

10 WHEREAS, Crotalus horridus ranges from southern New Hampshire
11 to northern Florida and from New Jersey as far west as eastern
12 Texas and Minnesota; and

13 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake can be found in numerous
14 counties in this Commonwealth, primarily in the central and
15 northeastern regions of the State; and

16 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake is currently vulnerable to a
17 decline in population due to a number of factors, including
18 habitat loss; and

1 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake is legally protected in
2 Pennsylvania and is subject to hunting and possession
3 regulations; and

4 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake is large in length, up to 74
5 inches, and stout-bodied, and its coloring consists of brown or
6 black bands on bright yellow to black body coloration; and

7 WHEREAS, The timber rattlesnake is a reptile that inspires
8 both fear and fascination among many Pennsylvanians.

9 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
10 hereby enacts as follows:

11 Section 1. Designation of the official reptile of the
12 Commonwealth.

13 The timber rattlesnake or *Crotalus horridus* is selected,
14 designated and adopted as the official reptile of the
15 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

16 Section 2. Effective date.

17 This act shall take effect immediately.