

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 142 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY BLAKE, STACK, TARTAGLIONE, DINNIMAN, FARNESE,
FONTANA, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY AND ALLOWAY, JUNE 14, 2011

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 14, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Congratulating the Republic of Hungary on the adoption of its
2 first national constitution in its 1,000-year history.

3 WHEREAS, The Government of Hungary has adopted its first
4 national constitution ever, replacing the constitution put in
5 place by the Stalinists in 1949; and

6 WHEREAS, Prior to the Stalinist constitution, Hungary did not
7 have a formal written constitution but was governed for nearly
8 1,000 years by the Doctrine of the Holy Crown (Szentkorona-tan),
9 a complex tradition that underlies Hungary's historical,
10 unwritten constitution until the 1949 Soviet-drafted
11 constitution; and

12 WHEREAS, When Communism fell in the late 1980s, Hungary was
13 the only post-Soviet state not to immediately establish a new
14 constitution; and

15 WHEREAS, At the Hungarian Round Table Talks in mid-1989, a
16 document that would establish a multiparty system, parliamentary
17 democracy and a social market economy was discussed but instead,
18 on October 18, 1989, the National Assembly adopted a

1 comprehensive amendment to the 1949 Constitution which would
2 prevail until a new constitution was framed; and

3 WHEREAS, The Government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban
4 invited all registered political parties to submit drafts to the
5 Constitutional Committee and participate in parliamentary
6 debate; and

7 WHEREAS, To solicit the input of the citizens of Hungary in
8 the process of the drafting of the constitution and basic law,
9 questionnaires were distributed to 8 million Hungarian voters,
10 and 1 million were completed and returned; and

11 WHEREAS, In April 2010, the Fidesz Party won a two-thirds
12 majority in the elections, the number necessary to establish a
13 new constitution according to the framework of the constitution
14 in force; and

15 WHEREAS, In place of a preamble, the constitution includes a
16 "national testament" or "national declaration" that begins with
17 the first line of Hungary's national anthem, "God Bless the
18 Hungarian," and sets forth Hungary's religious and ethnic roots,
19 the historic role of the Holy Crown in Hungarian life and the
20 legacy of the 1956 revolt against the Soviets; and

21 WHEREAS, The new constitution, the first national
22 constitution to be drafted on an iPad, was adopted by the
23 Hungarian National Assembly on April 18, 2011; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate congratulate the people of Hungary
25 and Prime Minister Viktor Orban on the adoption of their first
26 national constitution and applaud the democratic and historic
27 process of drafting and adopting the new constitution of the
28 people of Hungary.