
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 189 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, MILLARD, M. K. KELLER, D. COSTA, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, COHEN, DONATUCCI, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, HELM,
KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, FARINA, VEREB, DIGIROLAMO, BROWNEE,
PICKETT, MAJOR, SABATINA, MARSICO, V. BROWN, GABLER, GIBBONS,
PAYNE, GROVE, WATSON, WHEELAND, GINGRICH, B. MILLER, THOMAS,
MAHONEY, BRADFORD, GILLEN AND MURT, MARCH 24, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating 2015 as the "Year of the Pennsylvania Barn."

2 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has recognized the economic
3 contributions and importance to our agricultural heritage of
4 historic barns through legislation and has called for creating
5 inventories of these structures within this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Professor Emeritus Robert F. Ensminger of Kutztown
7 University and others, through years of study and research, have
8 determined that the Pennsylvania barn is a distinct
9 architectural form with many influences, but whose ultimate
10 realization and ideal expression were primarily achieved within
11 this Commonwealth beginning more than 250 years ago; and

12 WHEREAS, 2015 is the 10th year since the Pennsylvania
13 Historical and Museum Commission awarded a grant to the Historic
14 Preservation Society of Gettysburg-Adams County to initiate a
15 survey and study of the historic barns within Adams County and

1 to establish a Historic Barn Registry for the county; and

2 WHEREAS, Barns are the heart and soul of our Pennsylvania
3 farms and the communities of which they are a part and define
4 the agricultural character of rural landscapes across this
5 Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Barns are visual reminders that hard work,
7 productivity and ingenuity are integral to our identity as
8 Pennsylvanians no matter what our occupations and whether we
9 hail from cities, towns, rural areas or farms; and

10 WHEREAS, Farms and their signature barns were instrumental in
11 forming the foundation for Pennsylvania's historical settlement
12 patterns, resulting in the establishment of the rich community
13 character we cherish to this day; and

14 WHEREAS, The preservation of historic barns is an
15 increasingly important cause among national, State and local
16 historic preservation groups and societies; and

17 WHEREAS, Maintaining, rehabilitating, preserving and using
18 these cultural and architectural treasures in the fields of
19 Pennsylvania, as well as preserving those same fields,
20 contribute to a vibrant agricultural industry in this
21 Commonwealth; and

22 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania leads all 50 states in the total
23 acreage of agricultural preservation easements, and the barns
24 standing within these easements have a central function in
25 providing shelter for animals and storage for crops and
26 equipment; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate 2015 as
28 the "Year of the Pennsylvania Barn" and encourage efforts to
29 honor and preserve this uniquely Pennsylvanian architectural
30 form.