A RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to a variety of Federal parks and recreation facilities, 121 State parks, more than 6,000 local parks and numerous playgrounds, pools, beaches, campsites, marinas, picnic areas, athletic fields, skate parks, dog parks, festival venues, gardens, visitor centers, historic and cultural attractions and many other recreational facilities and amenities; and

WHEREAS, In April of 2020, George Mason University produced a study that found that local park and recreation systems support 14,840 jobs and contribute $695 million in labor income and $2.28 billion in annual economic activity in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The value and importance that Pennsylvanians place on their access to parks and recreation facilities is demonstrated by the surge in visitation during the COVID-19
pandemic, including a 26% increase in visitation to State parks in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals promote physical, emotional and mental health and wellness through organized and self-directed fitness and activity; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals support the economic vitality of communities by providing crucial jobs and child care and promoting community revitalization; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals support personal development and endless learning opportunities that foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional growth for individuals of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals sustain and steward our natural resources by protecting habitats and open space, using green infrastructure to help municipalities manage storm water and connecting individuals to nature; and

WHEREAS, Park and recreation professionals, complemented by thousands of volunteers, contribute significantly to the health, well-being and quality of life of all Pennsylvanians; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate July 16, 2021, as "Pennsylvania Park and Recreation Professionals Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate extend thanks and gratitude to park and recreation professionals for the indispensable services they provide to all Pennsylvanians and communities in this Commonwealth.