
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1078 Session of 1999

INTRODUCED BY SAYLOR, TRAVAGLIO, TRELLO, ORIE, ARMSTRONG,
CAPPABIANCA, M. COHEN, HORSEY, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, LAUGHLIN,
LEDERER, S. MILLER, READSHAW, SATHER AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MARCH 24, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 24, 1999

AN ACT

1 Selecting and designating the square dance as the official
2 American folk dance of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Square dance is in itself representative of the
4 melting pot of our nation having been brought to this country by
5 our pioneers; and

6 WHEREAS, The ancestry of American square dance can be traced
7 as far back as 1450, as shown by its genealogical history, and
8 includes a multitude of dance forms from England, Germany,
9 Poland, Ireland, Scotland and Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, Records in American history from 1651 show American
11 square dance has been danced through the years dating back to
12 the days of our first settlers; and

13 WHEREAS, Square dance offers fun and fellowship to both young
14 and old as well as the handicapped, with no restrictions as to
15 race, color or creed; and

16 WHEREAS, Due to the popularity of American square dance,
17 Square Dance Federations have been formed in every state in the

1 United States and in most foreign countries; and

2 WHEREAS, Square dance is the American folk dance which
3 includes, squares, rounds, contra, clogging, country western and
4 line dancing; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1951 square dance enthusiasts have joined
6 together for a National Square and Round Dance Convention; and

7 WHEREAS, Since 1994 the Pennsylvania Square and Round Dance
8 Federation has sponsored annual State Square and Round Dance
9 Conventions in this Commonwealth.

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

12 Section 1. Official American folk dance.

13 Square dance is selected, designated and adopted in
14 perpetuity as the official American folk dance of this
15 Commonwealth and added to the array of symbols of our
16 Commonwealth.

17 Section 2. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.