
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1339 Session of
2000

INTRODUCED BY MOWERY, MARCH 15, 2000

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 15, 2000

AN ACT

1 Declaring and adopting the poem "Independence," by James C.
2 Kanelos, as the State poem of the Commonwealth of
3 Pennsylvania.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Official State poem.

7 The poem "Independence," by James C. Kanelos, is hereby
8 adopted as the State poem of Pennsylvania and shall be the
9 official poem for all public purposes upon satisfaction of the
10 requirements of section 2. The lyrics of the poem are as
11 follows:

12 INDEPENDENCE

13 "In Seventeen Hundred and Seventy Six,
14 The Declaration was affixed,
15 Each member signed with Feathered Quill,
16 To bring us all, Peace and Good-will.
17 It has been said, to all accord,
18 "The Pen is mightier than the Sword,"

1 Our Independence We Have Won,
2 Now a New Nation has begun. . .
3 With passing years, so Strong and Free,
4 Americans, We're Proud to be,
5 Around the World, let it be told,
6 The Precious Freedom, That we hold.
7 Let us not Forget, the Many Brave,
8 Whose efforts made, 'OLD GLORY' wave.
9 United we Stand, Divided we fall,
10 Independence we'll cherish, For One
11 and For All."

12 Section 2. Assignment of copyright.

13 (a) Duty of Governor.--The Governor, on behalf of the
14 Commonwealth, shall obtain from the owner of the copyright of
15 the poem an assignment of all right, title and interest in the
16 copyright to the poem to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and
17 shall publish the date of the assignment as a notice in the
18 Pennsylvania Bulletin. The date of that publication shall be the
19 date of adoption of the official poem.

20 (b) Consideration prohibited.--No payment or other
21 consideration shall be paid anyone whosoever for the assignment
22 of the poem.

23 (c) Reproduction without charge.--After the assignment is
24 obtained by the Governor, the Commonwealth shall not charge
25 anyone for reproduction of the official poem.

26 Section 3. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect immediately.