
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 586 Session of
2002

INTRODUCED BY MAITLAND, ADOLPH, ALLEN, M. BAKER, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, CALTAGIRONE, COLEMAN, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DALEY, DeWEESE, DONATUCCI, FEESE, FICHTER, FORCIER, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HORSEY, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KELLER, LAUGHLIN, LEDERER, LESCOVITZ, MANDERINO, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, MCGILL, McNAUGHTON, MELIO, MICOZZIE, S. MILLER, PICKETT, PIPPY, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROSS, RUBLEY, SATHER, SCHRODER, SHANER, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, STABACK, E. Z. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WOJNAROSKI, G. WRIGHT AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 22, 2002

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 22, 2002

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating June 3, 2002, as "Transverse Myelitis Awareness Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Transverse myelitis, a disease affecting
4 approximately 1,250 Americans, is not widely recognized by the
5 medical profession or the general public as being a significant,
6 serious spinal cord condition; and

7 WHEREAS, Transverse myelitis is a devastating condition which
8 affects the neurological system, causing the spinal cord to
9 become inflamed, and which can occur as a single condition or in
10 the presence of an existing illness; and

11 WHEREAS, Symptoms include back pain, numbness of the lower
12 extremities and headache; and

13 WHEREAS, As the condition progresses, paralysis, sensory loss

1 and bowel and bladder dysfunction occur; and

2 WHEREAS, Scientific research has indicated that transverse
3 myelitis is an extremely rare condition affecting one of every 1
4 million people, but recent findings indicate that the incidence
5 has risen nearly 400%; and

6 WHEREAS, The Transverse Myelitis Association, a not-for-
7 profit organization, has seen an increase from 180 members in
8 1997 to more than 1,250 in 1998, and the numbers are rapidly
9 increasing; and

10 WHEREAS, While spinal cord injuries have been well publicized
11 in the media, transverse myelitis is often overlooked; and

12 WHEREAS, Recovery from transverse myelitis can be difficult
13 after months of treatment, with no sure guarantee that
14 improvement will occur; and

15 WHEREAS, Only one-third of persons with transverse myelitis
16 make a full recovery; and

17 WHEREAS, The increased awareness of transverse myelitis would
18 result in improvements in diagnosis and further scientific
19 research; and

20 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the people of this
21 Commonwealth to increase awareness of transverse myelitis;
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate June 3,
24 2002, as "Transverse Myelitis Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania in
25 order to educate the public, physicians and other members of the
26 medical community regarding the needs and issues of transverse
27 myelitis patients.