

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 89 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, PILEGGI, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, HUGHES,
MUSTO AND PIPPY, MAY 27, 2009

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 27, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging public and nonpublic schools to instruct the
2 students of this Commonwealth on the need for and rewards of
3 blood donation and volunteering in local blood donation
4 programs.

5 WHEREAS, Victims of trauma, surgery patients, organ
6 transplant patients, patients receiving treatment for leukemia,
7 cancer or other diseases and other individuals require
8 transfusions of whole blood and whole blood components; and

9 WHEREAS, On average, one person needs blood every three
10 seconds; and

11 WHEREAS, Approximately 38,000 units of blood are used each
12 day in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2001, 15 million units of whole blood and red
14 blood cells were donated in the United States while nearly 29
15 million units of blood components were used by persons in need;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Volunteer blood donors provide nearly all of the
18 nation's blood supply for transfusion; and

19 WHEREAS, Blood banks frequently run short of types O and B

1 blood, and shortages of all types of blood occur during the
2 summer and winter holidays; and

3 WHEREAS, No substitute for human blood currently exists, but
4 one unit of donated blood can save the lives of up to three
5 people; and

6 WHEREAS, While one unit of whole blood may be used for
7 transfusion, the same unit of whole blood can be separated into
8 several components, including red blood cells, white blood
9 cells, plasma, platelets and cryoprecipitated AHF
10 (antihemophilic factor), for use by different individuals with
11 different needs; and

12 WHEREAS, Red blood cells carry oxygen and are used to treat
13 anemia, platelets control bleeding and are used to treat
14 leukemia and other cancers, and plasma and cryoprecipitated AHF
15 are used to control bleeding; and

16 WHEREAS, Red blood cells must be used within 42 days or may
17 be frozen for up to ten years, platelets must be used within
18 five days, and plasma and cryoprecipitated AHF may be frozen and
19 used within one year; and

20 WHEREAS, Volunteer blood donors cannot contract acquired
21 immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any other blood disease
22 from the blood donation procedure; and

23 WHEREAS, More than ten tests, most of which are for
24 infectious diseases, are performed on each unit of donated
25 blood; and

26 WHEREAS, While 60% of the population of the United States
27 meets the criteria for blood donation and is eligible, only 5%
28 donates blood and blood components; and

29 WHEREAS, An adult of average weight has about ten to 12 units
30 of blood and may donate whole blood once every eight weeks or 56

1 days, and red blood cell donation, called red cell apheresis,
2 can be made every 16 weeks; and

3 WHEREAS, The time period for blood collection takes
4 approximately ten to 20 minutes, with the entire process taking
5 about 45 minutes to one hour; and

6 WHEREAS, Students in this Commonwealth are our future leaders
7 and citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to the general education of this
9 Commonwealth's students which is essential to achieving well-
10 informed and successful citizens, school-based instruction which
11 addresses the need for and benefits of blood donation and
12 volunteer blood donors benefits local communities and this
13 Commonwealth with an improved donated blood supply and an
14 increased level of participation in local blood donation
15 programs; and

16 WHEREAS, School-based instruction on the personal rewards for
17 blood donors and blood donation program volunteers, from
18 providing necessary assistance through local blood donation
19 programs to individuals with a critical need for blood
20 transfusions, benefits blood donors, program volunteers, local
21 communities and this Commonwealth; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage public and nonpublic
23 schools to provide instruction to the students of this
24 Commonwealth on the need for and the varied benefits of blood
25 donation and to encourage blood donation and participation in
26 local blood donation programs.