

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 685 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY MOUL, BAKER, BRADFORD, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE,
COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, J. EVANS,
EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLEN, GINGRICH, GODSHALL,
GOODMAN, GRELL, HARHART, HARPER, HELM, HESS, HICKERNELL,
M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY,
MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MURT,
MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PICKETT, QUIGLEY,
QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, ROAE, ROCK, ROEBUCK, SANTONI,
SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, TALLMAN,
TOOHIL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 25, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL
25, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 15 through June 15, 2012, as "Tourette Syndrome
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An estimated 3 in every 1,000 children between 6 and
4 17 years of age in the United States and this Commonwealth are
5 diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome, a neurobiological, genetic
6 condition which has no cure; and

7 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome is a lifelong developmental
8 disability that begins before a child reaches 18 years of age
9 and affects children and adults of all races and ethnicities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are affected by
12 tics which are involuntary, rapid, sudden movements or
13 vocalizations that occur repeatedly; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face periodic
2 changes in the nature and severity of their tics, as these
3 symptoms wax and wane and change without forewarning; and

4 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome frequently have
5 co-occurring conditions that further complicate their care and
6 diagnosis, including attention deficit disorder, attention
7 deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder,
8 mood disorders, learning disabilities, handwriting difficulties,
9 executive function disorder and sensory processing disorder; and

10 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are frequently
11 misunderstood by their families, educators, the community and
12 even by medical professionals due to their ever-changing
13 symptoms which at times seem controllable; and

14 WHEREAS, Tourette Syndrome has historically been
15 misinterpreted and considered to be a condition of emotional
16 disturbance instead of chemical biology; and

17 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often teased
18 and not accepted by their peers and the general public; and

19 WHEREAS, Children with Tourette Syndrome are often
20 disciplined for manifestations of their disability by educators
21 who fail to understand that the child is unable to control his
22 or her tics and that the child may be delayed in his or her
23 maturity and emotional responses; and

24 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome face
25 discrimination from educators, friends, family, employers,
26 coworkers and the judicial system while dealing with their
27 unpredictable disorder and uncertain future; and

28 WHEREAS, Individuals with Tourette Syndrome are often very
29 intelligent and capable of great contributions to society when
30 given the proper support; and

1 WHEREAS, Employers are required under the Americans with
2 Disabilities Act (ADA) to disregard disability in hiring or
3 promotions and to make reasonable accommodations to support
4 their employees with Tourette Syndrome so the employees can be
5 successful in the workplace and not be forced to file for
6 disability; and

7 WHEREAS, Employers can benefit from that success, but many
8 employers often neglect to hire, promote and make these
9 accommodations for individuals with Tourette Syndrome; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Tourette Syndrome Alliance, Inc.,
11 has been established to promote awareness and provide support
12 and advocacy for individuals with Tourette Syndrome in this
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, Understanding this disorder will help guarantee hope
15 for acceptance and a better future for people with Tourette
16 Syndrome; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
18 needs of these individuals with neurological impairment and
19 recognize May 15 through June 15, 2012, as "Tourette Syndrome
20 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania and urge all citizens to
21 support the need for Tourette Syndrome awareness and education
22 in order to assist those individuals and families who deal with
23 this neurobiological disorder every day of their lives.