

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 596 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, COHEN, YOUNGBLOOD, BROWNLEE, HARKINS, SCHLOSSBERG, MILLARD, CRUZ, READSHAW, ROZZI, BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, MIRABITO, KORTZ, THOMAS, PARKER, LUCAS, KINSEY, NEILSON, DeLUCA, CALTAGIRONE, ROCK, V. BROWN, CLAY, MCNEILL, D. COSTA, GINGRICH, SABATINA, ROEBUCK, ROSS, MAJOR, MURT, CLYMER, SIMS, J. HARRIS, W. KELLER, MIRANDA, MCGEEHAN, O'BRIEN, FARINA, K. BOYLE, D. EVANS AND CHRISTIANA, JANUARY 13, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 13, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Bernard Hopkins for his achievements
 2 and contributions to the sport of boxing and for his
 3 philanthropic efforts benefiting Philadelphia youth.

4 WHEREAS, Bernard Hopkins was born January 15, 1965, and was
 5 raised in the Germantown section of Philadelphia; and

6 WHEREAS, As a youth, Bernard Hopkins found himself involved
 7 with gangs and began committing petty crimes, eventually
 8 escalating to felony offenses which landed him in State prison
 9 facing a sentence of 18 years; and

10 WHEREAS, During his incarceration, Mr. Hopkins cultivated a
 11 new and improved mental and spiritual foundation and more
 12 importantly discovered his passion for the sport of boxing; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins wisely utilized his time while
 14 incarcerated to hone his boxing skills in preparation to pursue
 15 a professional career in the sport upon his release; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1988, after 56 months of confinement, Mr. Hopkins
2 was released from prison at 23 years of age; and

3 WHEREAS, Staying true to his ambition, Mr. Hopkins officially
4 turned professional as a light-heavyweight soon after his
5 release, but lost his first professional bout to Clinton
6 Mitchell on October 11, 1988; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 22, 1990, Mr. Hopkins achieved his first
8 professional win against Greg Paige in a four-round decision,
9 crediting his Spartan-like work ethic to his new trainer, Bouie
10 Fisher, who played a pivotal role in the shaping of his
11 illustrious career; and

12 WHEREAS, During the period between 1990 and 1992, Mr.
13 Hopkins, under the tutelage of trainer Bouie Fisher, worked his
14 way through the middleweight journeyman ranks and achieved a
15 remarkable 19 consecutive victories; and

16 WHEREAS, On December 4, 1992, Mr. Hopkins won the United
17 States Boxing Association (USBA) Middleweight Title against
18 veteran Wayne Powell in a mere 21 seconds by a knockout; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins would finally receive an opportunity to
20 contend for a world title shot against Roy Jones, Jr., on May
21 22, 1993; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins lost this bout in 12 hard-fought rounds
23 by a unanimous decision, suffering only the second loss of his
24 still-budding career; and

25 WHEREAS, Two title defenses followed which earned Mr. Hopkins
26 a second shot at contending for a world title; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins finally earned the title of world
28 champion in convincing fashion against Segundo Mercado on April
29 29, 1995; and

30 WHEREAS, In 2001, Mr. Hopkins was named Ring Magazine Fighter

1 of the Year and World Hall of Fame Fighter of the Year; and
2 WHEREAS, In February 2003, Mr. Hopkins not only used his
3 physical prowess to make an impact upon the boxing world, he
4 also was an outspoken advocate for fighters' rights, even
5 testifying before Congress in support of the Muhammad Ali Boxing
6 Reform Act; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins continued to establish himself as an
8 all-time great, successfully defending his title for a record-
9 setting 20th time; and

10 WHEREAS, Although his title defense streak would finally come
11 to an end on July 15, 2005, soon thereafter, Mr. Hopkins
12 achieved the amazing feat of moving up two weight classes and
13 capturing the light-heavyweight title against Antonio Tarver on
14 June 10, 2006; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins regained the middleweight title on
16 October 18, 2008, and twice defended the light-heavyweight title
17 against boxing elites Roy Jones, Jr., and Winky Wright; and

18 WHEREAS, On May 21, 2011, in a bout for the light-heavyweight
19 title against Jean Pascal, Mr. Hopkins further solidified his
20 legacy as one of the greatest fighters in the history of the
21 sport by becoming the oldest world champion in boxing history at
22 46 years of age; and

23 WHEREAS, On April 28, 2012, Mr. Hopkins lost his World Boxing
24 Council light-heavyweight title to Chad Dawson by decision; and

25 WHEREAS, On March 9, 2013, Mr. Hopkins won the International
26 Boxing Federation light-heavyweight title from Travis Cloud and
27 retained the title on October 26, 2013, by defeating Karo Murat;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, To date, Mr. Hopkins has compiled a stellar record
30 of 54 wins, 6 losses and 2 draws, with 32 of the victories by

1 knockout (KO) and is regarded as an unequivocal future hall of
2 fame inductee; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2006, Mr. Hopkins established the Bernard and
4 Shirley Hopkins "Make A Way" Foundation in honor of his late
5 mother; and

6 WHEREAS, The "Make A Way" Foundation has donated hundreds of
7 thousands of dollars to raise awareness to help make a way for
8 Philadelphia's underprivileged youth; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
10 honor Bernard Hopkins for his achievements and contributions to
11 the sport of boxing and for his philanthropic efforts benefiting
12 Philadelphia youth.