

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 850 Session of  
2014

---

INTRODUCED BY McCARTER, PASHINSKI, KORTZ, NEILSON, BISHOP,  
CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD, COHEN, DONATUCCI, B. BOYLE,  
READSHAW, KINSEY, SANTARSIERO, MILLARD, O'BRIEN, ROEBUCK,  
BARBIN, DAVIS, McNEILL, THOMAS, V. BROWN, MAHONEY, D. COSTA,  
SABATINA, GODSHALL, MENTZER, MURT, DeLUCA AND BRADFORD,  
MAY 5, 2014

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 5, 2014

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Supporting the City of Philadelphia's efforts to become the  
2 first World Heritage City in the United States.

3 WHEREAS, The Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC) is  
4 an association comprised of select cities from around the world;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The 250 OWHC members include such internationally  
7 recognized cities as Paris, Brussels and Warsaw; and

8 WHEREAS, OWHC members exchange information on matters of  
9 conservation and management and participate in conferences,  
10 seminars and workshops dealing with the challenges to be met in  
11 the realm of management and strategies pertaining to the  
12 preservation and development of historic cities; and

13 WHEREAS, Designation as a World Heritage City not only  
14 promotes the sharing of information and expertise, but it can  
15 also translate into an upsurge in tourism and business in a

1 region; and

2 WHEREAS, To be eligible for membership to the OWHC, a city  
3 must be home to a site on the World Heritage List, as designated  
4 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural  
5 Organization (UNESCO); and

6 WHEREAS, The World Heritage List is an outgrowth of decades  
7 of international efforts to save culturally and naturally  
8 significant sites around the world from destruction; and

9 WHEREAS, One of a select group of sites on this list in the  
10 United States is Independence Hall, located in the City of  
11 Philadelphia; and

12 WHEREAS, This legendary landmark has hosted many notable  
13 events in the history of our nation, including the signing of  
14 both the Declaration of Independence and the United States  
15 Constitution; and

16 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence and the United  
17 States Constitution have proven to be instrumental in not only  
18 the founding of our country, but also in the establishment of  
19 the United States of America as one of the most influential and  
20 powerful constitutional democracies in the history of mankind;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, As the home of Independence Hall, the birthplace of  
23 a democracy that has had a global impact, Philadelphia is  
24 uniquely qualified for membership in the OWHC; and

25 WHEREAS, Selection of Philadelphia as a member of the OWHC  
26 would increase tourism revenue and business opportunities in the  
27 city and throughout southeastern Pennsylvania, while helping to  
28 promote the ideals of democracy throughout the world; therefore  
29 be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the

1 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania express its support for the City of  
2 Philadelphia's efforts to obtain membership in the Organization  
3 of World Heritage Cites and thereby become the first World  
4 Heritage City in the United States; and be it further

5       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
6 the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, the President of the  
7 Philadelphia City Council and the Chair of the Board of  
8 Directors of the Global Philadelphia Association, and to the  
9 Secretary General, the President and each Vice-President of the  
10 Organization of World Heritage Cities.