
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 844 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY DEAN, GAINNEY, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, KINSEY,
QUIGLEY, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, MILLARD, J. McNEILL, JAMES,
TOOHIL, LONGIETTI, CORBIN, NEILSON, R. BROWN, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, SAYLOR, BARBIN, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY, DUSH, MURT,
B. MILLER, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, DIGIROLAMO, CALTAGIRONE,
JOZWIAK AND GROVE, APRIL 18, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 28, 2018, as "National Prescription Drug Take-
2 Back Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On April 28, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the
4 United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will provide
5 the public with a free and anonymous opportunity to safely rid
6 their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and
7 unwanted prescription drugs; and

8 WHEREAS, The DEA, along with local agencies, began holding
9 "National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day" in 2010, and it has
10 proven so successful that it has grown into a semiannual event;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, During the most recent "National Prescription Drug
13 Take-Back Day" held in October 2017, Americans turned in 456
14 tons of prescription drugs at more than 5,000 sites operated by
15 the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law

1 enforcement partners; and

2 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania there were 211 law enforcement
3 participants and 303 collection sites collecting over 18 tons of
4 prescription drugs; and

5 WHEREAS, Since the inaugural "National Prescription Drug
6 Take-Back Day" in 2010, the DEA and its partners have collected
7 more than 9 million pounds of prescription drugs or
8 approximately 4,500 tons of pills; and

9 WHEREAS, This initiative addresses a vital public safety and
10 public health issue; and

11 WHEREAS, Unwanted, unused or expired medications that
12 languish in home medicine cabinets or medications that are not
13 disposed of properly are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse
14 and abuse; and

15 WHEREAS, Rates of prescription drug abuse in the United
16 States are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental
17 poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the American Society of Addiction
19 Medicine (ASAM), four out of five new heroin users started out
20 misusing prescription medications; and

21 WHEREAS, ASAM reports that as a result, the rate of heroin
22 overdose deaths nearly quadrupled from 2000 to 2013; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
24 Prevention there were more than 63,600 drug overdose deaths in
25 the United States in 2016; and

26 WHEREAS, According to the DEA, a majority of abused
27 prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends,
28 including from the home medicine cabinet; therefore be it

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize April
30 28, 2018, as "National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day" in

1 Pennsylvania.