
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1169 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, NEILSON, BIZZARRO, KINSEY,
BURNS, J. HARRIS, BOBACK, DUSH, SONNEY, SCHLEGEL CULVER,
PASHINSKI, THOMAS, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, KAVULICH, SAYLOR,
ROEBUCK, DAVIS, WATSON, J. McNEILL, SCHLOSSBERG, DRISCOLL,
TOOHIL, CALTAGIRONE, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHWEYER AND WARREN,
OCTOBER 16, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 16, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 15, 2018, as "The Great American Smokeout
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Smoking, secondhand smoke and broader tobacco
4 marketing were commonplace in the 1970s when annual Great
5 American Smokeout events were first observed; and

6 WHEREAS, Today almost 38 million people in the United States
7 smoke cigarettes of which 76.1% smoke every day; and

8 WHEREAS, Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable
9 cause of disease and premature death in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking is believed to cause approximately
11 1 in 5 deaths in the United States each year; and

12 WHEREAS, Exposure to secondhand smoke alone causes an
13 estimated 41,000 deaths per year among adults in the United
14 States; and

15 WHEREAS, Including secondhand smoke, cigarette smoking causes

1 more than 480,000 deaths annually; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, 3.9
3 million middle and high school students used tobacco in 2016;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 2016, according to the National Youth Tobacco
6 Survey, 47.2% of high school tobacco users and 42.4% of middle
7 school tobacco users used two or more different types of tobacco
8 products; and

9 WHEREAS, E-cigarettes remain the most commonly used tobacco
10 product among youths for the last three years; and

11 WHEREAS, Smoking-related illnesses in the United States cost
12 \$170 billion per year in direct medical care for adults and \$156
13 billion per year in lost productivity; and

14 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking increases the risk of cancers of
15 the mouth and throat, lung, esophagus, pancreas, cervix, kidney,
16 bladder, stomach, colon, rectum and liver, as well as acute
17 myeloid leukemia; and

18 WHEREAS, Smoking greatly increases the risk of debilitating,
19 long-term lung diseases such as emphysema and chronic
20 bronchitis; and

21 WHEREAS, Smoking also causes heart attack, stroke, diabetes
22 and cataracts; and

23 WHEREAS, Half of all smokers who keep smoking will eventually
24 die from a smoking-related illness; and

25 WHEREAS, A smoker's heart rate and blood pressure drop just
26 20 minutes after quitting smoking; and

27 WHEREAS, One year after quitting smoking, the excess risk of
28 coronary heart disease is half that of someone who still smokes,
29 and the risk of heart attack drops dramatically; and

30 WHEREAS, Fifteen years after quitting smoking, a smoker's

1 risk of coronary heart disease is equivalent to the risk for a
2 nonsmoker; and

3 WHEREAS, No matter how old a smoker is or how long the
4 individual has been a smoker, quitting can help that individual
5 live a longer, healthier life; and

6 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, The Great
7 American Smokeout is held each year on the third Thursday of
8 November to create awareness of addiction and tobacco-related
9 diseases and deaths while promoting further regulation of
10 tobacco products and helping smokers quit; and

11 WHEREAS, Research has shown that smokers have greater success
12 quitting smoking when they have appropriate support; and

13 WHEREAS, Smoking cessation is more readily attained when
14 smokers use two or more of these recommended measures: support
15 groups, online groups, counseling, nicotine replacement,
16 prescription medicine, guide books and encouragement from
17 friends and family members; and

18 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, noting the dangers of
19 tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, is committed to
20 the prevention and cessation of smoking and other tobacco use;
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
23 November 15, 2018, as "The Great American Smokeout Day" in
24 Pennsylvania.