
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1183 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, BIZZARRO, ROTHMAN,
LONGIETTI, J. McNEILL, MILLARD, RYAN, C. QUINN, THOMAS,
YOUNGBLOOD, BURNS AND DIGIROLAMO, NOVEMBER 2, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 2, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 1, 2018, as "Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome
2 Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome is a severe form of epilepsy
4 that accounts for nearly 4% of all cases of childhood epilepsy;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome is characterized by a triad
7 of symptoms that include multiple types of seizures, an abnormal
8 electroencephalogram and moderate to severe cognitive
9 impairments; and

10 WHEREAS, Children with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome typically
11 begin to show symptoms between the ages of three and five, even
12 following a normal period of development; and

13 WHEREAS, Some of the known causes of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
14 include brain injury associated with pregnancy or birth, severe
15 brain infections, developmental malformations of the brain and
16 metabolic conditions; and

17 WHEREAS, Lennox-Gastaut syndrome may be preceded by another

1 rare and often unnoticed form of epilepsy known as infantile
2 spasms; and

3 WHEREAS, Nearly all children with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
4 develop learning problems and intellectual disabilities
5 associated with their frequent seizures; and

6 WHEREAS, Because the seizures associated with Lennox-Gastaut
7 syndrome are often resistant to typical treatments, the
8 resulting intellectual impairments tend to worsen over time; and

9 WHEREAS, As children with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome grow older,
10 uncontrolled seizures may become less problematic but impaired
11 intellectual functioning persists and may be accompanied by
12 acute psychotic episodes, slowed cognitive functioning and
13 progressive behavioral problems; and

14 WHEREAS, Complete recovery is extremely unusual for a child
15 with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome and most affected individuals will
16 require lifetime assistance with some or all of the usual
17 activities of daily life; and

18 WHEREAS, Since there is no cure for Lennox-Gastaut syndrome,
19 the goals of treatment are to reduce the adverse side effects of
20 medication and to improve quality of life; and

21 WHEREAS, The three main treatment options for Lennox-Gastaut
22 syndrome are antiseizure medications, dietary therapy and
23 nonpharmacological methods; and

24 WHEREAS, Further research is needed to identify more
25 effective therapies; and

26 WHEREAS, Due to the heterogeneity of Lennox-Gastaut syndrome,
27 researchers often find Lennox-Gastaut syndrome difficult to
28 study, and there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done
29 to understand the syndrome; and

30 WHEREAS, November 1 is celebrated worldwide as "International

1 Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Awareness Day," to bring awareness to
2 this rare condition, acknowledge the Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
3 community and promote research efforts to better understand
4 Lennox-Gastaut syndrome; and

5 WHEREAS, "Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Awareness Day" is
6 recognized to further highlight research efforts and recognize
7 the challenges this syndrome continues to present to the
8 children and adults affected by it, as well as to their families
9 and caregivers; therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
11 November 1, 2018, as "Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome Awareness Day" in
12 Pennsylvania.