

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 286 Session of  
2018

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, MARCH 20, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 20, 2018

## A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and accomplishments of physicist Stephen  
2 Hawking.

3 WHEREAS, Stephen Hawking, one of the most brilliant  
4 theoretical physicists in history, died on March 14, 2018; and

5 WHEREAS, Stephen Hawking began studying physics at University  
6 College, University of Oxford, in 1959; and

7 WHEREAS, After completing his degree from the University of  
8 Oxford, Stephen Hawking went on to study cosmology, the study of  
9 the universe as a whole, at the University of Cambridge; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1963, just before his 21st birthday, Stephen  
11 Hawking was diagnosed with a motor neuron disease commonly known  
12 as Lou Gehrig's disease or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS);  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Given two years to live, Stephen Hawking defied the  
15 odds, not only attaining his Ph.D. but also forging new roads  
16 into the understanding of the universe in the decades since; and

17 WHEREAS, Stephen Hawking continued as a fellow at Cambridge  
18 University after his graduation and in 1979 was appointed the

1 Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, a  
2 post once held by Sir Isaac Newton; and

3 WHEREAS, While ALS robbed Stephen Hawking of his mobility and  
4 speech, over the course of his career, his work on the origins  
5 and structure of the universe, from the Big Bang to black holes,  
6 revolutionized the field; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1988, Stephen Hawking published his book, *A Brief*  
8 *History of Time*, which has sold more than 10 million copies; and

9 WHEREAS, Stephen Hawking's best-selling books have appealed  
10 to readers who may not have Hawking's scientific background; and

11 WHEREAS, Stephen Hawking became an emblem of human  
12 determination and curiosity; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the life and accomplishments  
14 of physicist Stephen Hawking.