
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 694 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, KIM, PASHINSKI, KINSEY, SONNEY,
BIZZARRO, FREEMAN, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, BURNS, MILLARD,
KENYATTA, CIRESI, LONGIETTI, KORTZ, ULLMAN, SCHMITT, THOMAS,
HOWARD, SAYLOR, TOOHL, WILLIAMS, NEILSON, ROEBUCK AND
CONKLIN, JANUARY 30, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JANUARY 30, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 18, 2020, as "Kick Butts Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable
3 death in the United States, imposing a terrible toll on
4 families, businesses and government in terms of health, lives
5 and dollars; and

6 WHEREAS, Tobacco kills more than 480,000 people annually,
7 more than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, illegal drugs, murders
8 and suicides combined; and

9 WHEREAS, While the United States has made major progress
10 against tobacco use, approximately 13.7% of American adults
11 still smoke; and

12 WHEREAS, In the United States, an estimated 41,000 adults die
13 each year from exposure to secondhand smoke; and

14 WHEREAS, More than 16 million Americans currently suffer from
15 smoking-related illnesses; and

16 WHEREAS, Tobacco costs the United States more than \$170

1 billion in health care expenditures and \$156 billion in lost
2 productivity each year; and

3 WHEREAS, Each day, approximately 2,000 youths under 18 years
4 of age try smoking for the first time and more than 300 youths
5 become new regular, daily smokers; and

6 WHEREAS, One in thirteen youths who are regular, daily
7 smokers will die prematurely because of tobacco use; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2019, approximately 27.5% of high school students
9 used electronic cigarettes; and

10 WHEREAS, The tobacco industry spends approximately \$9.4
11 billion annually or \$25 million each day on marketing its
12 products nationwide, with much of the marketing aimed at
13 children; and

14 WHEREAS, It is imperative that visible, unified tobacco
15 cessation and prevention education efforts by community members
16 be launched to encourage all tobacco users to become tobacco-
17 free; and

18 WHEREAS, To win the fight against tobacco, it is imperative
19 to prevent teens from starting to use tobacco products, help
20 current tobacco users quit and protect all individuals from
21 harmful secondhand smoke; and

22 WHEREAS, Businesses, government, law enforcement, schools,
23 faith-based institutions, service organizations, youths,
24 physicians, senior citizens, military organizations, sports
25 teams and individuals from all walks of life can demonstrate
26 their commitment to tobacco-free, healthy lifestyles by
27 participating in "Kick Butts Day"; therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize March
29 18, 2020, as "Kick Butts Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage

1 residents of all ages to participate in tobacco cessation and
2 prevention education activities to make a visible show of
3 support for our strong commitment to a tobacco-free community,
4 encouraging all youths and adults to pledge to be tobacco-free.