
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1014 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, GALLOWAY, BOBACK, BURGOS, HILL-EVANS,
ROEBUCK, WILLIAMS, LONGIETTI, SHUSTERMAN, KINSEY, FREEMAN,
HOWARD, SAMUELSON, SAINATO, KENYATTA, DEASY, MENTZER,
NEILSON, DRISCOLL, ZABEL, READSHAW, INNAMORATO, SANCHEZ,
McCLINTON, ROZZI, MILLARD, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, O'MARA AND
WARREN, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2020 as "Civic Education
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is where the constitutional
4 government for the United States of America began 233 years ago;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, We, the American people, must heed President Abraham
7 Lincoln's charge to ensure "that government of the people, by
8 the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, To maintain a government by and for the people, the
11 United States needs a citizenry that understands the history and
12 foundation of our representative democracy, the role of strong
13 institutions in facilitating effective collective decisionmaking
14 and the essential nature of active community participation in
15 our system of self-governance; and

1 WHEREAS, Only 39% of Americans can name the three branches of
2 our national government; and

3 WHEREAS, The highest national voter turnout in an election
4 since 1970 was just 61.6% of the voting eligible population; and

5 WHEREAS, On the most recent national civic knowledge test,
6 only 24% of eighth grade students scored at or above the
7 proficient level; and

8 WHEREAS, Effective civic education is linked to higher voter
9 turnout, increased collaborative skills and lower dropout rate,
10 among many other benefits; and

11 WHEREAS, Schools have the capacity to reach nearly every
12 young person in the country and are therefore essential in
13 establishing and maintaining a robust culture of civic
14 engagement for future generations of Americans; and

15 WHEREAS, Act 35 of 2018 requires each school entity to
16 administer at least once to students in grades 7 through 12 an
17 assessment of United States history, government and civics,
18 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year; and

19 WHEREAS, All Pennsylvanians could benefit from civic
20 education to encourage greater engagement and involvement in the
21 American political process; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
23 month of October 2020 as "Civic Education Awareness Month" in
24 Pennsylvania; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
26 residents of this Commonwealth to celebrate efforts to educate
27 and inform American citizens about their rights and
28 responsibilities as citizens and the importance of civic
29 engagement.