
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1067 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MALAGARI, HENNESSEY, MURT, BURNS, KINSEY, BROWN,
WILLIAMS, GALLOWAY, FREEMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS,
YOUNGBLOOD, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, SCHLEGEL CULVER, BROOKS,
WEBSTER, McCLINTON, READSHAW AND SCHMITT, OCTOBER 19, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 19, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of October 2020 as "National Protect Your
2 Hearing Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Our sense of hearing can be taken for granted as we
4 enjoy new experiences, such as concerts and sporting events,
5 listen to our favorite music through our headphones or expose
6 ourselves to occupational hazards in the workplace; and

7 WHEREAS, Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is a condition
8 that affects all ages and can lead to permanent impairment for
9 those who do not take proactive action in safeguarding their
10 sense of hearing; and

11 WHEREAS, The National Institute on Deafness and Other
12 Communication Disorders (NIDCD) suggests that up to 24% of
13 American adults under 70 years of age may have hearing loss due
14 to noise exposure in one or both ears; and

15 WHEREAS, Other studies have suggested that between 13% and
16 18% of American teenagers have signs of possible hearing loss

1 from noise; and

2 WHEREAS, It is reported that just 15 minutes at a loud
3 sporting event or concert can cause permanent hearing damage;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, NIHL can also develop over the course of time as one
6 is exposed to the noise produced from heavy machinery, such as
7 factory or farming equipment; and

8 WHEREAS, NIHL is caused by the damage to the tiny bundles of
9 hair-like structures within the ear which are responsible for
10 responding to sound waves; and

11 WHEREAS, When these structures are damaged, the result is
12 irreversible and cannot be fixed or replaced, leading to
13 permanent impairment; and

14 WHEREAS, One of the most common results of excessive noise
15 exposure is tinnitus, a buzzing, ringing or roaring in the head
16 or ears; and

17 WHEREAS, While tinnitus can subside over time once the
18 individual is removed from the source of the noise, others
19 report permanent tinnitus that can appear in one or both ears,
20 indicating the potential incidence of NIHL; and

21 WHEREAS, More than 50 million Americans experience tinnitus
22 at some time point in their lives, with about 20 million
23 reporting chronic tinnitus; and

24 WHEREAS, Tinnitus can be a debilitating condition that leaves
25 individuals feeling isolated and hopeless in finding relief from
26 the seemingly constant distraction in one's mind; and

27 WHEREAS, With access to proper noise and sound therapies,
28 coupled with cognitive behavioral therapy, relief can be
29 achieved for individuals looking to reclaim their quality of
30 life; and

1 WHEREAS, There are preventive and protective methods that can
2 be implemented to preserve one's hearing, even in the presence
3 of risky or dangerous environments; and

4 WHEREAS, NIDCD encourages people to lower the volume of their
5 music, especially while wearing headphones or earbuds, as sounds
6 above 85 decibels are reported to pose the most risk; and

7 WHEREAS, People can also increase the amount of space between
8 them and the noise to provide a physical buffer and wear
9 earplugs or earmuffs while doing yard or construction work or
10 attending loud events; and

11 WHEREAS, Children's ears are especially vulnerable to loud
12 noises and should be protected with noise-blocking headphones or
13 the child should be removed from potentially dangerous
14 environments; and

15 WHEREAS, For those who are vulnerable to NIHL due to the
16 nature of their occupation, the hearing conservation program
17 developed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration
18 requires that all employees who are exposed to an eight-hour
19 time-weighted average of 85 decibels or greater are provided
20 hearing protection by their employer at no cost; and

21 WHEREAS, Protecting one's ability to hear is a critical
22 measure in maintaining one's independence, quality-of-life and
23 overall health and safety; and

24 WHEREAS, The month of October 2020 has been designated as
25 "National Protect Your Hearing Month"; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
27 month of October 2020 as "National Protect Your Hearing Month"
28 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
30 need to raise the awareness of methods and tools available to

1 residents of this Commonwealth to preserve their sense of
2 hearing.