
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 186 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ARGALL, BLAKE, GORDNER, YUDICHAK, VOGEL,
STREET, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, K. WARD, BROWNE AND J. WARD,
JUNE 25, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 25, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 20, 2019, as "Anthracite Heritage Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal, or hard coal, is formed by high
4 temperature and pressure and is a natural mineral with high
5 carbon content, high heat quality and few impurities; and

6 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal is a fuel source, the first known
7 use having been recorded in 1768 by a blacksmith in the Wilkes-
8 Barre region; and

9 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal was mined mostly in Wales and in
10 this Commonwealth's six northeastern coalfields, encompassing
11 the counties of Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne,
12 Northumberland and Schuylkill; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania anthracite region, or "coal
14 region," is home to the largest known deposits of anthracite
15 coal found in America; and

16 WHEREAS, Coal miners played an important part in our nation's
17 economic and cultural history and at one time accounted for 50%

1 of the male industrial workforce; and

2 WHEREAS, Coal miners in the anthracite region came from
3 diverse ethnic backgrounds; and

4 WHEREAS, Coal mines were dangerous places to work, as
5 injuries and deaths were commonplace; and

6 WHEREAS, In the late 1800s, more than 10,000 miners died in
7 anthracite mine accidents; and

8 WHEREAS, Early anthracite use was limited to local
9 consumption since the coal was difficult to ignite and hard to
10 transport to urban markets, making it challenging for early coal
11 companies to survive and prosper; and

12 WHEREAS, The Lehigh, Schuylkill, Delaware and Hudson canals
13 were formed to transport coal to urban markets, including
14 Philadelphia and New York City; and

15 WHEREAS, The rise of the railway system expanded the
16 anthracite industry in this Commonwealth and brought the first
17 steam locomotive to America; and

18 WHEREAS, Anthracite use in the iron industry increased the
19 demand for hard coal and fueled the Industrial Revolution; and

20 WHEREAS, The Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 was one of
21 America's largest industrial strikes and brought about increased
22 wages, shorter hours and safer working conditions for immigrants
23 working the coalfields; and

24 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal helped meet the tremendous energy
25 and production demands of two world wars; and

26 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is now the third largest coal-
27 producing state and the only state that produces anthracite
28 coal; and

29 WHEREAS, Northeastern Pennsylvania is the only region in our
30 Commonwealth to produce anthracite coal; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, the anthracite industry is responsible for
2 more than 1,000 Pennsylvania jobs and contributes more than \$200
3 million annually to the region and the State economy; and

4 WHEREAS, The importance of the contributions of coal miners
5 and the anthracite industry to our nation and our Commonwealth
6 cannot be overstated; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate July 20, 2019, as
8 "Anthracite Heritage Day" in Pennsylvania in recognition of our
9 rich anthracite mining history.