

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1923 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY M. MACKENZIE, R. MACKENZIE, KAUFFMAN AND NEILSON,
DECEMBER 28, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, DECEMBER 28, 2023

AN ACT

1 Selecting, designating and adopting the Pennsylvania March as
2 the official march of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The march style of music has had a long history in
4 the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, John Philip Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever"
6 is an early example of American march music that is now an
7 iconic part of our collective history; and

8 WHEREAS, Currently, marches are a fixture of high school,
9 college and university marching bands and many states across
10 this nation have their own official march; and

11 WHEREAS, On September 16, 2018, composer Ron DeGrandis'
12 "Pennsylvania March" was premiered in Allentown by The Marine
13 Band of Allentown; and

14 WHEREAS, DeGrandis said he was inspired by this
15 Commonwealth's diverse cities and landscapes; and

16 WHEREAS, DeGrandis described the march as "...a tribute to
17 honor our glorious state. It features the rhythm of the word
18 Penn-syl-vania throughout the music to tie it together. This

1 march is in the style of John Philip Sousa. It is played by a
2 band and is an instrumental piece of music"; and

3 WHEREAS, Prior to this composition, the Commonwealth has
4 never had a tune in the traditional American march genre.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Official
9 Pennsylvania March Designation.

10 Section 2. Designation of the official march of the
11 Commonwealth.

12 The Pennsylvania March is hereby selected, designated and
13 adopted as the official march of the Commonwealth of
14 Pennsylvania.

15 Section 3. Publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

16 The composition of the Pennsylvania March shall be published
17 by the Legislative Reference Bureau in the Pennsylvania Bulletin
18 within 30 days of the effective date of this section.

19 Section 4. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect immediately.