

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing September 2016 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every
4 baby born prior to hospital discharge for certain harmful or
5 potentially fatal conditions that are not otherwise apparent at
6 birth; and

7 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns
8 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant
9 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

10 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that
11 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and
12 evaluation; and

13 WHEREAS, Every year more than 4 million newborns in the
14 United States and more than 140,000 newborns in Pennsylvania
15 undergo newborn screening; and

16 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers
17 for Disease Control and Prevention's publication entitled, "Ten

1 Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century"; and

2 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States
3 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the act of
5 September 9, 1965 (P.L.497, No.251), known as the Newborn Child
6 Testing Act, by requiring physicians, hospitals and other
7 institutions to administer or cause to be administered tests for
8 PKU and other metabolic diseases upon infants in certain cases;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the newborn screening
11 act has been amended three times, most recently with Act 148 of
12 2014, which expanded the list of required diseases for testing
13 from six to twelve; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania
15 provides newborn hearing screening, testing for critical
16 congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and services
17 for other diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-up
19 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of
20 Health; and

21 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in
22 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with
23 several partner organizations to shine a national spotlight on
24 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe September
26 2016 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and
27 be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the
29 importance of awareness and encourage parents and future parents
30 to educate themselves on newborn screening and take the

1 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

BY _____, **District NO.** _____

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See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	