

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY \_\_\_\_\_, District  
NO. \_\_\_\_\_

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Prior Session \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Referred to Committee on</b>
Date _____, 20 _____
Reported _____, 20 _____
<b>As Committed-Amended</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>
_____
By Hon. _____

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 28, 2017, as "Charter of Privileges Day" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, William Penn was born into nobility in 1644, as the  
4 only son of British war hero Admiral William Penn; and

5 WHEREAS, William Penn became a Quaker minister, lawyer and  
6 writer who was imprisoned five times for his religious  
7 convictions; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1668, at 24 years of age, William Penn met Josiah  
9 Coale and discussed establishing a utopia in America; and

10 WHEREAS, William Penn began to write pamphlets and debated  
11 religious leaders, contending that religion should free itself  
12 from outward observances and confessions of faith and focus on  
13 obedience to God in one's heart; and

14 WHEREAS, For this, William Penn was imprisoned without trial  
15 for eight months in the Tower of London at the urging of the  
16 Bishop of London; and

17 WHEREAS, William Penn used his time of imprisonment to write

1 the seminal book of Quaker virtues, "No Cross, No Crown"; and  
2 WHEREAS, In 1675, William Penn wrote "England's Present  
3 Interest Considered," which promoted religious liberty as the  
4 driver of economic prosperity; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1676, William Penn, as trustee of New Jersey,  
6 guaranteed religious liberty in "The Charter of Fundamental Laws  
7 of West New Jersey"; and

8 WHEREAS, On March 4, 1681, King Charles II of England granted  
9 William Penn a charter for land in the Province of Pennsylvania  
10 in payment for a large debt the king owed to Penn's father; and

11 WHEREAS, In April 1682, William Penn, as Proprietor of the  
12 Province of Pennsylvania, authored the "Frame of Government of  
13 Pennsylvania," which guaranteed religious freedom; and

14 WHEREAS, In August 1682, William Penn arrived aboard the  
15 *Welcome* with passengers of diverse nationalities and faiths who  
16 joined in his "Holy Experiment," where men might worship God  
17 according to their own conscience; and

18 WHEREAS, During his first stay in the Province of  
19 Pennsylvania from 1682 to 1684, William Penn demonstrated the  
20 ideals of human dignity, individual rights and self-government  
21 in dealing with Native Americans, the Provincial Assembly,  
22 freemen, planters and adventurers; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1697, William Penn first called for colonial  
24 unification; and

25 WHEREAS, During his second stay in the Province of  
26 Pennsylvania from 1699 to 1701, William Penn authored the  
27 "Charter of Privileges"; and

28 WHEREAS, This governing document, effective October 28, 1701,  
29 guaranteed privileges to future generations that included  
30 establishing religious liberty, ensuring the Provincial

1 Assembly's right to elect its own officers, promoting tripartite  
2 government and securing the right of freemen to vote without  
3 property requirements; and

4 WHEREAS, The charter further guaranteed America's first  
5 freedom, freedom of religion from government; and

6 WHEREAS, Known as America's "Magna Carta" of religious  
7 liberty, the charter was the most famous of all colonial  
8 constitutions and served as Pennsylvania's Constitution until  
9 the American Revolution; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1751, the Provincial Assembly commissioned a  
11 foundry in England to forge a bell to properly commemorate and  
12 celebrate the 50th anniversary of William Penn's "Charter of  
13 Privileges"; and

14 WHEREAS, After being recast twice by Pass and Stow, the bell  
15 was hung in the State House in Philadelphia and inscribed with  
16 the prophetic words from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty  
17 throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof"; and

18 WHEREAS, On July 8, 1776, the bell, later renamed the Liberty  
19 Bell, proclaimed the Declaration of Independence at the founding  
20 of a new nation; and

21 WHEREAS, Benjamin Franklin wrote the first constitution of  
22 the independent state in September 1776 and chose as  
23 Pennsylvania's first freedom the liberty of conscience of  
24 religious profession and worship; and

25 WHEREAS, The guarantee of liberty of conscience served as the  
26 moral foundation of our Republic of Virtue; and

27 WHEREAS, Our founding documents, the Declaration of  
28 Independence and the Constitution of the United States, were  
29 adopted in Philadelphia; and

30 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United

1 States and writer of the Declaration of Independence, recognized  
2 William Penn's influence upon the nation, noting that he was  
3 "without doubt, the greatest lawgiver the world has produced";  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Voltaire, a French philosopher and advocate of  
6 religious toleration, praised William Penn by saying that he  
7 "might with reason, boast of having brought down upon earth the  
8 Golden Age, which in all probability, never had any real  
9 existence but in his dominions"; and

10 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the United  
11 States, bestowed honorary citizenship upon William Penn as the  
12 first great hero of American liberty, one of only eight foreign  
13 nationals to be so honored; and

14 WHEREAS, The Liberty Bell, which celebrates William Penn's  
15 "Charter of Privileges," continues to proclaim liberty  
16 throughout the world; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate October  
18 28, 2017, as "Charter of Privileges Day" in Pennsylvania.