
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 115 Session of
1997

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, BELARDI, ROONEY, MELIO, READSHAW, BEBKO-
JONES, WALKO, CARN, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD, TIGUE AND
CAPPABIANCA, APRIL 8, 1997

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON RULES, APRIL 8, 1997

A RESOLUTION

1 Affirming English as the primary language in Pennsylvania and
2 recognizing both the will of many language minorities in this
3 Commonwealth to become fluent in English and their right to
4 communicate in their native tongue while learning and until
5 becoming fluent in English.

6 WHEREAS, No one disputes that English is the primary language
7 of the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, Language minorities in this country have always had
9 to face the fact that not learning English places them at a
10 disadvantage; and

11 WHEREAS, It is nonetheless the right of any person to use his
12 or her mother tongue to communicate until becoming fluent in
13 English; and

14 WHEREAS, There is a growing provincialism in this
15 Commonwealth and the United States that would deny persons whose
16 primary language is not English basic services, such as
17 materials explaining how to vote, or the right to learn in their
18 primary language until they become fluent in English; therefore
19 be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives affirm the
2 position of English as the principal language of this
3 Commonwealth and the right of language minorities to communicate
4 in their mother tongue while learning and until becoming fluent
5 in English.