
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 643 Session of
2008

INTRODUCED BY M. SMITH, BEAR, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BRENNAN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, GALLOWAY, GEIST, GEORGE, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HANNA, HELM, HERSHEY, JAMES, KORTZ, KULA, MAHONEY, MAJOR, McILVAINE SMITH, MENSCH, MILLARD, MUSTIO, MYERS, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, RAMALEY, READSHAW, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, SWANGER, TRUE, VULAKOVICH, YOUNGBLOOD, HARHART, K. SMITH, BAKER AND CONKLIN,
MARCH 17, 2008

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 17, 2008

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of May 11 through 17, 2008, as "Food
2 Allergy Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Food allergy reactions cause 30,000 visits to
4 emergency rooms and 150 deaths each year when individuals
5 unknowingly eat a food containing an ingredient to which they
6 are allergic; and

7 WHEREAS, Children are the largest group affected by food
8 allergies; and

9 WHEREAS, Researchers estimate that approximately 12 million
10 Americans have food allergies; and

11 WHEREAS, Food allergy symptoms can include hives, vomiting,
12 diarrhea, respiratory distress and swelling of the throat; and

13 WHEREAS, Ninety percent of all food allergy reactions involve
14 shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, soy or wheat;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, There is no cure for potentially fatal food
3 allergies, and strict avoidance of the allergenic food is the
4 only way to prevent a reaction; and

5 WHEREAS, Anaphylaxis resulting from a food allergy produces a
6 sudden, severe, potentially fatal systemic reaction that can
7 involve various areas of the body such as the skin, respiratory
8 tract, gastrointestinal tract or cardiovascular system; and

9 WHEREAS, In severely allergic individuals, anaphylaxis can
10 cause death in a matter of minutes; and

11 WHEREAS, Eating in restaurants and at schools poses the
12 highest risk for people with food allergies; and

13 WHEREAS, Restaurant and cafeteria staff members are often not
14 aware of the ingredients used in preparing the food and may not
15 be prepared to handle a patron with an allergic reaction; and

16 WHEREAS, The Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) is a
17 national nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the
18 public about food allergies and anaphylaxis; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
20 week of May 11 through 17, 2007, as "Food Allergy Awareness
21 Week" in Pennsylvania.