
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 65 Session of
2009

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, CLYMER, BROWN, ADOLPH, BARRAR, BEYER, BISHOP, BOBACK, BOYD, BRENNAN, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAUSER, COHEN, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DELOZIER, DIGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, EVERETT, FAIRCHILD, FLECK, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HELM, HENNESSEY, HESS, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KULA, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MANN, McCALL, MELIO, MILLARD, MUNDY, MURT, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PRESTON, QUINN, RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROHRER, ROSS, SAMUELSON, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, STURLA, TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH, WATSON, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, FEBRUARY 10, 2009

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Free
2 School Act of 1834, establishing public education and school
3 board governance in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Public education is the foundation of a strong
5 democracy; and

6 WHEREAS, The Free School Act of 1834 established the
7 foundations for today's modern public education system in
8 Pennsylvania; and

9 WHEREAS, Such notable Pennsylvanians, including Governor
10 George Wolf and State Representative Thaddeus Stevens, fought
11 vigorously for free schools that would provide all children an
12 opportunity for betterment through education; and

13 WHEREAS, The efforts of such visionaries in the 1830s saw

1 that it was the Commonwealth's responsibility to provide
2 adequate financial support so that all children could attend
3 schools, regardless of the income of their parents; and

4 WHEREAS, These visionaries also realized that it was
5 important to delegate power to locally elected public officials
6 to select school professionals, oversee operations of schools
7 and to levy and collect taxes to supplement State subsidies; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania School Boards Association, as the
9 organization representing these locally elected officials, is
10 leading the recognition and celebration of this important
11 milestone in history; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend the
13 volunteer service of school board members in providing essential
14 local leadership for the public school system; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate April
16 2009 as the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Free School
17 Act of 1834, which became law in April of that year; and be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives declare that the
20 commitment to educating all Pennsylvania children demonstrated
21 by government officials 175 years ago is at least as strong
22 today as it was 175 years ago and is a vital key to future
23 growth in this Commonwealth.