

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 967 Session of 2010

INTRODUCED BY SOLOBAY, KORTZ, McCALL, READSHAW, DERMODY, SAINATO, SEIP, PICKETT, MARSICO, McGEEHAN, K. SMITH, GROVE, PALLONE, PASHINSKI, CHRISTIANA, CALTAGIRONE, O'NEILL, LONGIETTI, HARHAI, MIRABITO, DIGIROLAMO, SCAVELLO, BRIGGS, BRENNAN, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, WAGNER, DONATUCCI, BISHOP, EVERETT, SWANGER, GEIST, ROSS, CAUSER, HORNAMAN, STABACK, FLECK, ROCK, GODSHALL, MAJOR, DALEY, MILLARD, SANTONI, PAYNE, GRUCELA, DENLINGER, MURT, OBERLANDER, FREEMAN, DeWEESE, GOODMAN, SIPTROTH, KULA, M. O'BRIEN, MICOZZIE, KOTIK, HAHN, KIRKLAND, MANN, DELOZIER, GEORGE, BEYER, SONNEY, HELM, WATSON, M. KELLER, HICKERNELL, STERN, FAIRCHILD, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD, GRELL, ROEBUCK, MUSTIO, COHEN, WHITE, DEASY, PHILLIPS, DeLUCA, MARSHALL, TRUE, MOUL AND REESE, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2010 as "Pennsylvania Fire
2 Prevention Month," observing the week of October 3 through 9,
3 2010, as "National Fire Prevention Week" and urging
4 Pennsylvanians to follow all safety measures to prevent
5 fires, including making sure to install smoke alarms in
6 required places in their homes.

7 WHEREAS, Fires exist as a serious safety concern, both
8 locally and nationally; and

9 WHEREAS, People face the greatest risk of fire in their
10 homes; and

11 WHEREAS, Each year, nearly 3,000 people die in house fires in
12 the United States, according to the National Fire Protection
13 Association (NFPA); and

1 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania firefighters and other first responders
2 have dedicated their services to prevent the damage,
3 destruction, pain and trauma that fires cause families and
4 communities through efforts to educate everyone on how to stop
5 fires from starting and what protections to follow in case one
6 does strike; and

7 WHEREAS, The NFPA picked the theme of "Smoke Alarms: A Sound
8 You Can Live With" for the 2010 National Fire Prevention Week to
9 educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and to
10 encourage everyone to take necessary steps to update and
11 maintain their home smoke alarm protection; and

12 WHEREAS, Efforts to promote the theme provide an ideal
13 opportunity to educate the public about smoke alarm
14 recommendations and serve as a powerful tool for motivating
15 people to install smoke alarms, as needed, and to make sure
16 they're working and tested properly; and

17 WHEREAS, The NFPA reported the following information on its
18 Internet website, www.firepreventionweek.org, regarding the
19 importance and use of smoke alarms:

20 (1) Smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported
21 fire in half.

22 (2) Ninety-six percent of homes have at least one smoke
23 alarm, according to a 2008 telephone survey.

24 (3) Overall, 75% of all United States homes have at
25 least one working smoke alarm.

26 (4) No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire
27 deaths.

28 (5) In 23% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were
29 present but did not sound.

30 (6) In more than half of the reported home fires in

1 which smoke alarms were present, but did not operate even
2 though the fire was large enough, batteries were missing or
3 disconnected.

4 (7) Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for
5 disconnecting alarms.

6 (8) More than half of the smoke alarms found in reported
7 fires and two-thirds of the alarms found in homes with fire
8 deaths were powered by battery only.

9 (9) Most homes still have smoke alarms powered by
10 battery only according to a 2007 American Housing Survey.

11 (10) In a 2008 telephone survey, only 12% knew that
12 smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.

13 (11) In fires considered large enough to activate a
14 smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 91% of the time while
15 battery-powered smoke alarms operated 75% of the time.

16 (12) Interconnected smoke alarms on all floors increase
17 safety.

18 (13) In a United States Consumer Product Safety
19 Commission (CPSC) survey of households with any fires,
20 interconnected smoke alarms were more likely to operate and
21 alert occupants to a fire, including fires in which the fire
22 department was not called;

23 therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
25 month of October 2010 as "Pennsylvania Fire Prevention Month"
26 and observe the week of October 3 through 9, 2010, as "National
27 Fire Prevention Week" with the theme for each being "Smoke
28 Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With"; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend all
30 firefighters, other first responders and those who provide

1 support to them for all their efforts to prevent, fight and stop
2 fires; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
4 residents, landlords, businesses and other property owners to:

5 (1) Ensure all smoke alarms work properly in their
6 buildings.

7 (2) Change the batteries in the smoke alarms at least
8 every six months and replace smoke alarms at least every ten
9 years.

10 (3) Install interconnected smoke alarms as much as
11 possible.

12 (4) Ensure that families develop, practice and follow a
13 home fire escape plan.

14 (5) Visit the Fire Prevention Week website,
15 www.firepreventionweek.org, for more fire safety tips.

16 (6) Heed the important fire safety messages and support
17 the many public safety activities and efforts of
18 Pennsylvania's fire and emergency responders.