

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 910 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, BEAR, BOYD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN,
CREIGHTON, CUTLER, DALEY, DAY, EVERETT, FARRY, FLECK, GEIST,
GEORGE, GIBBONS, GOODMAN, HARHART, HENNESSEY, HESS,
HUTCHINSON, KAUFFMAN, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MARSHALL, MILLARD,
MILLER, MOUL, MURT, PEIFER, PETRARCA, PICKETT, PYLE, QUINN,
RAPP, READSHAW, REICHLEY, ROCK, SCAVELLO, STABACK, STEVENSON,
TALLMAN, VULAKOVICH, BENNINGHOFF, GILLESPIE, SACCONI AND
HAHN, MARCH 14, 2011

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 13, 2012

AN ACT

1 Designating the Pennsylvania LONG Rifle as the official firearm
2 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. ←

3 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's gunmaking tradition has played an
4 important role in the development of the United States of
5 America; and

6 WHEREAS, During Pennsylvania's early history, settlers placed
7 chief reliance on their rifles for sustenance, security and
8 survival; and

9 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania LONG Rifle, a unique firearm that ←
10 was different in principle and outline from any other weapon in
11 the world, was developed by skilled gunsmiths in the Moravian
12 communities of Christian's Spring, Northampton County, as well
13 as by artistic riflemaker Martin Meylin, in Willow Street,
14 Lancaster County; and

1 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania LONG Rifle was the first truly
2 American firearm and, due to its exceptional accuracy and range,
3 was considered the greatest achievement in the development of
4 firearms during the 18th century; and

5 WHEREAS, Playing an important role in the early years of the
6 Industrial Revolution in Pennsylvania and New England, the
7 Pennsylvania LONG Rifle was also instrumental in the American
8 fur trade and was carried west and south by frontiersmen as they
9 set out to expand the boundaries of the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania LONG Rifle has been lauded for its
11 beauty and craftsmanship, as well as the ingenuity of the
12 skilled gunsmiths who crafted it; and

13 WHEREAS, The color combinations, carvings, engravings and
14 graceful slenderness of the Pennsylvania LONG Rifle cause it to
15 stand alone and remain unchallenged as a primary example of
16 early American art; and

17 WHEREAS, Future generations deserve the right to appreciate
18 the heritage of this long-barreled rifle, born to artistic
19 gunsmiths in the communities of the Commonwealth of
20 Pennsylvania.

21 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
22 hereby enacts as follows:

23 Section 1. Official State firearm.

24 The Pennsylvania LONG Rifle is hereby designated as the
25 official firearm of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

26 Section 2. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect immediately.