
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 517 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY MURT, ADOLPH, BAKER, BEAR, BRENNAN, BROOKS,
BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, DIGIROLAMO, J. EVANS, EVERETT,
FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOODMAN,
GRELL, HARKINS, HESS, W. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, LONGIETTI,
MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MCGEEHAN, MILLARD, MIRABITO,
M. O'BRIEN, O'NEILL, PARKER, ROCK, SANTONI, SCAVELLO,
SCHRODER, K. SMITH, SONNEY, STERN, SWANGER, THOMAS, TOOHIL,
VEREB, VULAKOVICH AND YOUNGBLOOD, DECEMBER 7, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 7, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2011 as "Disability History
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, in
4 2009, 36,150,710 individuals, or 12% of the population of the
5 United States, have a disability; and

6 WHEREAS, Disability is an aspect of the human experience that
7 crosses all boundaries of humanity worldwide; and

8 WHEREAS, During most of American history, people with
9 disabilities were subjected to discrimination and mistreatment
10 by society; and

11 WHEREAS, The early efforts of activists in the disability
12 rights movement laid the foundation for future Federal and state
13 laws, and the disability community has successfully mobilized
14 over the years to enact laws to give people with disabilities

1 important civil rights protection; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1975, the Federal Education for All Handicapped
3 Children Act (EHA) was enacted to ensure that children with
4 disabilities have the opportunity to receive a free appropriate
5 public education, just like all other children; and

6 WHEREAS, Renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education
7 Act in 1990, the EHA has been amended several times to assure
8 that all children with disabilities from birth through 21 years
9 of age receive the appropriate supports, services and education
10 to meet their needs; and

11 WHEREAS, A major milestone in the disability rights movement
12 was the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990
13 which established protections and equal opportunity for
14 individuals with disabilities including employment,
15 transportation, telecommunications, public accommodations and
16 Federal Government and state government services; and

17 WHEREAS, Most Americans are unaware of the significant
18 historic contributions that people with disabilities have made,
19 and are continuing to make today, for the benefit of our nation;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, To ensure full inclusion of people with disabilities
22 into all aspects of society, it is essential to educate the
23 public about the history of the disability rights movement and
24 to raise awareness of the daily challenges faced by persons with
25 disabilities and of the talents and skills persons with
26 disabilities can bring to their schools, jobs and communities;
27 therefore be it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
29 month of November 2011 as "Disability History Awareness Month"
30 in Pennsylvania and encourage all citizens, schools and

1 businesses to work within their communities to increase
2 awareness and understanding of individuals with disabilities,
3 their history, accomplishments and contributions to their
4 communities and society.