

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 550 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY MAHER, DECEMBER 15, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
DECEMBER 15, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the 220th birthday of the United States Constitutional
2 Bill of Rights on December 15, 2011.

3 WHEREAS, The first ten amendments to the Constitution of the
4 United States are collectively known as the Bill of Rights; and

5 WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights became effective as amendments to
6 the Constitution of the United States on December 15, 1791; and

7 WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights protects the rights of people and
8 limits the powers of government; and

9 WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights reads as follows:

10 1. Congress shall make no law respecting an
11 establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise
12 thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press;
13 or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to
14 petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

15 2. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the
16 security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and
17 bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

18 3. No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in

1 any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of
2 war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

3 4. The right of the people to be secure in their
4 persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable
5 searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants
6 shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or
7 affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be
8 searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

9 5. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or
10 otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or
11 indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the
12 land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual
13 service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person
14 be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy
15 of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case
16 to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life,
17 liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall
18 private property be taken for public use, without just
19 compensation.

20 6. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy
21 the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury
22 of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been
23 committed, which district shall have been previously
24 ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and
25 cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses
26 against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining
27 witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel
28 for his defense.

29 7. In Suits at common law, where the value in
30 controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial

1 by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury,
2 shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United
3 States, than according to the rules of the common law.

4 8. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive
5 fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

6 9. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain
7 rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others
8 retained by the people.

9 10. The powers not delegated to the United States by the
10 Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are
11 reserved to the States respectively, or to the people;

12 and

13 WHEREAS, It is appropriate to honor the freedoms provided to
14 the people by the Bill of Rights; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and
16 recognize the 220th birthday of the United States Constitutional
17 Bill of Rights on December 15, 2011.