
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 693 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY WATSON, BOYD, PASHINSKI, RAPP, MILNE, BAKER,
BRADFORD, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, CONKLIN, D. COSTA, COX,
DALEY, DIGIROLAMO, D. EVANS, EVERETT, FLECK, GEIST, GEORGE,
GILLEN, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARHART, HARPER, HARRIS,
HESS, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, KILLION, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA,
LONGIETTI, MAHONEY, MAJOR, MANN, MARSICO, MICOZZIE, MILLARD,
MOUL, MURT, MUSTIO, M. O'BRIEN, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW,
ROCK, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER,
SONNEY, STABACK, SWANGER, TALLMAN, TOOHL, VEREB, VULAKOVICH,
WATERS, YOUNGBLOOD, MIRABITO AND J. EVANS, APRIL 30, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL
30, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2012 as "Healthy Babies Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The March of Dimes is declaring May 2012 to be
4 "Healthy Babies Month" in order to educate women and men of
5 childbearing age about the importance of preconception and
6 prenatal care, nutrition and a healthy lifestyle in order to
7 enhance positive birth outcomes; and

8 WHEREAS, Women of childbearing age can take steps before and
9 during pregnancy to improve birth outcomes, including adopting a
10 healthy lifestyle of moderate exercise and a healthy diet,
11 reducing stress and avoiding exposure to smoking, alcohol,
12 illegal drugs and some medications that can harm a developing
13 fetus; and

1 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2010, 15.4% of women 18 to 44
2 years of age reported binge drinking in the past month, which is
3 comparable to 15.4% overall in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Drinking alcohol during pregnancy, and particularly
5 binge drinking, can cause birth defects and mental retardation;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania in 2010, 22.5% of women 18 to 44
8 years of age reported smoking, compared to 17.6% overall in the
9 United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Smoking is an important determinant of health status
11 and a major contributor to prematurity and low birth weight; and

12 WHEREAS, Up to 70% of neural tube defects, which are birth
13 defects of the brain and spinal cord, may be prevented if women
14 consume 400 micrograms of folic acid daily, prior to and during
15 the early weeks of conception; and

16 WHEREAS, Eighty-four percent of women 18 to 45 years of age
17 surveyed had heard of folic acid, but only 11% of these women
18 reported knowing the importance of taking folic acid prior to
19 pregnancy; and

20 WHEREAS, Early and regular preconception and prenatal care is
21 a pregnant woman's first line of defense for protecting her
22 baby; and

23 WHEREAS, Recommendations for a healthy pregnancy include
24 prevention of infections such as rubella, not using prescription
25 or over-the-counter medications without approval of a doctor and
26 avoiding tobacco, alcohol and illicit substances; therefore be
27 it

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
29 month of May 2012 as "Healthy Babies Month" in Pennsylvania and
30 urge parents and prospective parents to contact the March of

- 1 Dimes and allied health care organizations for literature on how
- 2 to prepare themselves before conception and during pregnancy.