

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 796 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY MIRABITO, EVERETT, BAKER, CAUSER, BEAR, BRENNAN,
BROOKS, CALTAGIRONE, CLYMER, COHEN, D. COSTA, DALEY,
DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, FABRIZIO, GEORGE, GILLESPIE, GINGRICH,
GOODMAN, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HESS, JAMES, KAVULICH, KIRKLAND,
KORTZ, MAJOR, MALONEY, MANN, MILLARD, MURT, O'NEILL, PICKETT,
QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SAINATO, SCAVELLO, SCHMOTZER,
STABACK, VEREB, WATERS, WILLIAMS, YOUNGBLOOD AND GILLEN,
JUNE 29, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, JUNE
29, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Celebrating the 55th anniversary of North Central Sight
2 Services, Inc.

3 WHEREAS, North Central Sight Services, Inc., formerly known
4 as the Lycoming County Association for the Blind, was
5 incorporated on February 7, 1957, as the 29th branch of the
6 Pennsylvania Association for the Blind in Williamsport,
7 Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, Approximately 20 million American adults are
9 afflicted with blindness or visual impairment, including nearly
10 60,000 children and 250,000 Pennsylvanians; and

11 WHEREAS, Macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy are
12 just two of the many visual impairments that afflict thousands
13 of Pennsylvanians as well as people worldwide; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health, National Eye

1 Institute (NEI) estimates that the incidence of macular
2 degeneration is 1.47% of the general population and the rate is
3 significantly higher in those geographical areas with older
4 populations; and

5 WHEREAS, The NEI also reports that age-related macular
6 degeneration is more prevalent among Caucasians than among
7 African Americans, and the number of persons with AMD will
8 likely increase 50% by 2020 due to the rapidly aging population;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The NEI approximates that the incidence rate of
11 diabetic retinopathy is 3.4% of the general population but is
12 significantly higher among diabetics at 40.3%, and 1 in 12
13 persons with diabetes have advanced vision-threatening
14 retinopathy; and

15 WHEREAS, North Central Sight Services provides support and
16 services to approximately 7,000 Pennsylvanians afflicted with
17 macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy or other visual
18 impairments; and

19 WHEREAS, North Central Sight Services, Inc., diligently and
20 successfully promotes persons who are blind and visually
21 impaired to achieve self-reliance and autonomy through the
22 various programs, services and employment opportunities offered
23 to the residents of North Central Pennsylvania, including the
24 inhabitants of Bradford, Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Potter,
25 Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga Counties; and

26 WHEREAS, Living independently with a meaningful job is
27 important to individuals experiencing vision impairment; and

28 WHEREAS, North Central Sight Services, Inc., enjoys a storied
29 history of fostering independence to persons who are blind and
30 visually impaired; and

1 WHEREAS, Previously the Lycoming County Association for the
2 Blind manufactured rubber door mats from recycled tires, caned
3 chairs and performed subcontract work for local businesses; and

4 WHEREAS, North Central Sight Services, Inc., continues to
5 provide employment opportunities to persons who are blind and
6 visually impaired through shredding services, CD/DVD
7 duplication, custom flash drive logos and subcontracting; and

8 WHEREAS, The North Central Sight Services, Inc., excellent
9 Prevention of Blindness Program delivers eye screenings, public
10 education, referral services and low vision aids to many of
11 Pennsylvania's children and adults; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2010, North Central Sight Services, Inc.,
13 distributed more than 4,400 public education brochures, offered
14 more than 4,100 educational presentations and provided 6,600 eye
15 health screenings; and

16 WHEREAS, North Central Sight Services, Inc., has tirelessly
17 supported and promoted the interests of individuals with
18 blindness and visual impairments; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and
20 celebrate the 55th anniversary of North Central Sight Services,
21 Inc.; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to
23 North Central Sight Services, Inc., 2121 Reach Road,
24 Williamsport, PA 17701.