
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 963 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BISHOP, THOMAS, ROZZI, V. BROWN, McNEILL,
BIZZARRO, DIGIROLAMO, KAVULICH, MIRABITO, CALTAGIRONE,
HENNESSEY, SONNEY, KIRKLAND, NEILSON, LUCAS, FREEMAN, KINSEY,
READSHAW, MILLARD, VEREB, GRELL, HARHART, ROSS, COHEN,
BROWNLEE, FRANKEL, PASHINSKI, GINGRICH, SABATINA, MAJOR,
R. BROWN AND ROCK, AUGUST 28, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 28, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2014 as "Lifesharing Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Approximately 1,600 individuals with intellectual
4 disabilities receive Lifesharing services in this Commonwealth
5 each year; and

6 WHEREAS, Lifesharing involves having an individual with an
7 intellectual disability share his or her life with supportive
8 people who form a caring household; and

9 WHEREAS, Lifesharing may happen in a provider's home or
10 apartment or the individual's home or apartment, and Lifesharing
11 may be offered by a couple, a single person or a family; and

12 WHEREAS, The purpose of Lifesharing is to enrich the lives of
13 people with intellectual disabilities by matching those who
14 choose Lifesharing with an individual or a family who choose to
15 open their home and hearts; and

WHEREAS, Lifesharing is a mutual experience, not a hierarchal one; and

WHEREAS, Lifesharing is providing a place to live for people with intellectual disabilities in which they can develop close, committed personal relationships; and

WHEREAS, Lifesharing services, formerly known as Family Living, have been provided in this Commonwealth for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, a pilot Lifesharing program officially began with Thresholds, an agency located in Reading; and

WHEREAS, Lifesharing became a viable living option for individuals with intellectual disabilities; and

WHEREAS, By 1997, Lifesharing spread to every county in this State; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with intellectual disabilities who live with foster parents through children and youth services are able to continue living in that home under Lifesharing when they turn 21 in order to provide consistency and continuity of care to the individual with a disability; and

WHEREAS, According to data comparison from a Statewide independent monitoring of residential services from 2007 to 2010, Lifesharing participants consistently had the highest level of consumer satisfaction with where they live; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has a significant waiting list for individuals with intellectual disabilities requesting residential services due to the aging of caregivers and an aging population needing support; and

WHEREAS, Current models of support, such as intermediate care facilities similar to institutions and home and community-based services, require 24-hour staffing and may be unsustainable; and

1 WHEREAS, Lifesharing is less expensive than both of these
2 models, while providing more individualized support; and

3 WHEREAS, An average Lifesharing budget is approximately
4 \$45,000 per year compared to a community or group home budget of
5 approximately \$150,000 per year; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau's
7 statistics in 2005, by the year 2030, the United States will
8 have only 45,000,000 females between the ages of 25 and 44 to
9 care for nearly 75,000,000 individuals 65 years of age or older;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Our work force will not keep pace with the demand;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, There will not be enough workers to take care of the
14 baby boomers; and

15 WHEREAS, Lifesharing may be the answer for many of these
16 individuals; and

17 WHEREAS, Lifesharing affords individuals with intellectual
18 disabilities opportunities for increased community
19 participation, potential for long-term relationships and the
20 ability to assume new social roles; and

21 WHEREAS, Lifesharing providers are advocates, friends and
22 mentors who not only share their homes with people with
23 intellectual disabilities but help them engage in community
24 life, teach them new skills and also help them make friends and
25 good life choices that will lead to satisfying, safe and
26 productive lives; and

27 WHEREAS, It is important to educate the public about
28 Lifesharing and to ensure that people with intellectual
29 disabilities are provided with information so that they may
30 choose Lifesharing as a viable living option; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of October 2014 as "Lifesharing Awareness Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.