
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 134 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MURT, BOBACK, COHEN, GOODMAN, HARKINS, MASSER,
MILLARD, PICKETT, READSHAW AND WATSON, JANUARY 21, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 21, 2015

AN ACT

1 Establishing an official rock of the Commonwealth.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Official Rock
6 Act.

7 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

8 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

9 (1) The production of anthracite coal has historically
10 been a major industry and source of employment in this
11 Commonwealth.

12 (2) Anthracite played a major role in the
13 industrialization of this Commonwealth and the United States.

14 (3) The estimations are that 16,000,000,000 tons of coal
15 lie within the anthracite seams in northeastern Pennsylvania
16 with a recoverable amount being classified at approximately
17 7,000,000,000 tons.

(4) Connecticut settlers in the Wyoming Valley discovered the anthracite coal seams in 1762.

(5) In 1775, mining of anthracite started in northeastern Pennsylvania in Pittston.

(6) The first industrial use of anthracite, for heating and drawing iron in the making of nails, was recorded in 1788.

(7) Anthracite was discovered in the Schuylkill region in 1790 and in the Lehigh region in 1792.

(8) The first recorded anthracite coal company, the Lehigh Coal Mining Company, sent the first significant shipments of anthracite out of the coal field region in 1820.

(9) In 1869, the Pennsylvania Department of Mines was established with the nation's first stringent mine safety laws to follow in 1870.

(10) In 1959, the Knox mine coal disaster ended deep coal mining in the northern anthracite fields in this Commonwealth.

(11) The anthracite ranges cover 500 square miles in Dauphin, Schuylkill, Northumberland, Columbia, Carbon, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne and Susquehanna counties.

(12) Anthracite, historically referred to as "stone coal," is one of this Commonwealth's most significant natural resources.

(13) In 1971, to help preserve and share the rich history of Pennsylvania anthracite the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission created the Anthracite Museum Complex, consisting of three museums, the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Eckley Miners' Village and the Museum of Anthracite Mining, and one historical site, the

1 Scranton Iron Furnaces.

2 Section 3. Designation.

3 Anthracite, also known as "hard coal," is designated as the
4 official rock of the Commonwealth.

5 Section 4. Effective date.

6 This act shall take effect in 60 days.