
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 694 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY MICCARELLI, PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER, KILLION, McNEILL,
BISHOP, DIGIROLAMO, COHEN, ROZZI, HENNESSEY, V. BROWN,
CALTAGIRONE, DONATUCCI, KINSEY, HARKINS, O'BRIEN, DAVIS,
READSHAW, THOMAS, SONNEY, BARRAR, HARHART, VEREB, BROWNLEE,
O'NEILL, MILLARD, FARINA, A. HARRIS, C. PARKER, REGAN,
DeLUCA, YOUNGBLOOD, MAHONEY, MURT, WATSON AND GINGRICH,
MARCH 3, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MARCH 3, 2015

AN ACT

1 Designating January 12, Joe Frazier's birthday, as "Joe Frazier
2 Day."

3 WHEREAS, The son of a sharecropper, Joe Frazier became a
4 boxer by accident; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier first went to a gym to work himself into
6 shape, and he began fighting competitively and became one of the
7 best amateur heavyweights in the nation; and

8 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier won a gold medal in the 1964 Olympics;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier turned pro in 1965 and had 11 straight
11 wins until he fought Oscar Bonavena in 1966; and

12 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier closed out the 1967 campaign with a 19-0
13 career record; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Champion in
15 1968; and

1 WHEREAS, From 1968 to 1970, Joe Frazier made six defenses of
2 his title; and

3 WHEREAS, On March 8, 1971, in the 15th round of a fight
4 between Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali before a sellout crowd at
5 Madison Square Garden, Frazier landed perhaps the most famous
6 left hook in history, catching Ali on the jaw and dropping the
7 former champ for a four-count, and at the end of 15 grueling
8 rounds, Frazier got the nod from all three judges and left the
9 ring as the undisputed champ; and

10 WHEREAS, The International Boxing Research Organization
11 (IBRO) rates Joe Frazier among the ten greatest heavyweights of
12 all time; and

13 WHEREAS, Joe Frazier carried himself with dignity and donated
14 the vast majority of his money to charity; and

15 WHEREAS, According to ESPN, Joe Frazier's Gym, currently a
16 converted warehouse located on North Broad Street in
17 Philadelphia, has been placed on the list of America's 11 Most
18 Endangered Historical Places by the National Trust for Historic
19 Preservation.

20 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
21 hereby enacts as follows:

22 Section 1. Joe Frazier Day.

23 In honor of the birthday of one of the greatest heavyweight
24 boxers of all time, Joe Frazier, January 12 of each year is
25 hereby designated as "Joe Frazier Day."

26 Section 2. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect immediately.