
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 126 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY RAVENSTAHL, KIM, BAKER, VEREB, KIRKLAND, COHEN,
V. BROWN, MATZIE, HEFFLEY, FREEMAN, KINSEY, READSHAW,
SCHWEYER, DONATUCCI, THOMAS, BROWNLEE, DAVIS, ROZZI, GRELL,
D. COSTA, KNOWLES, SONNEY, DUSH, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE,
BOBACK, WHEELAND, GABLER, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO, SCHLOSSBERG,
PICKETT, P. DALEY, MAHONEY, ROSS, MAJOR, DeLUCA, DEASY,
MARSICO, GIBBONS, GINGRICH, GOODMAN, MURT, WATSON, GILLEN AND
McCARTER, FEBRUARY 26, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of March 15 through 21, 2015, as "Poison
2 Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Each year, more than two million poisonings are
4 reported to poison centers across the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, About half of all poison exposure cases involve
6 children under six years of age; and

7 WHEREAS, Poisoning remains a leading cause of death among
8 adults, accounting for 92% of all poison-related deaths reported
9 to poison control centers in 2013; and

10 WHEREAS, A majority of poisonings occur in the home where
11 analgesics, cosmetics or other personal care products, household
12 cleaning products and prescription drugs are subject to exposure
13 or improper use; and

14 WHEREAS, Poison control centers fielded more than three

1 million calls in 2013 ranging from poisoning reports to calls
2 seeking information, equating to nearly 8,400 calls per day; and

3 WHEREAS, Of the 2.2 million poison emergency cases reported
4 to poison control centers in 2013, 72% occurred in a home and
5 70% were treatable at home with assistance from a poison center;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, On September 16, 1961, Congress established
8 "National Poison Prevention Week," and shortly thereafter the
9 Poison Prevention Week Council was organized to coordinate this
10 annual event and promote poison prevention; and

11 WHEREAS, "National Poison Prevention Week" is observed
12 annually during the third week in March to promote public
13 education on ways to prevent poisonings; and

14 WHEREAS, Though most consumer products pose no hazard to
15 human health if used properly, many common household products,
16 including opioid medications and cleaning products, can become
17 poisonous; and

18 WHEREAS, Most poison exposures happen unintentionally and
19 only 13% of poisonings occurred from an intentional overdose or
20 the misuse of a controlled substance in 2013; and

21 WHEREAS, Across the United States, 55 poison control centers
22 operate to assist the public with poison emergencies and to
23 respond to questions about poison prevention and exposure to
24 poisons; and

25 WHEREAS, Two poison control centers, the Pittsburgh Poison
26 Center at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the Poison
27 Control Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia,
28 operate in this Commonwealth; and

29 WHEREAS, In 2013, the poison control centers located in
30 Pittsburgh and Philadelphia accounted for an estimated savings

1 of more than \$31.4 million in ambulance costs and emergency
2 department visits alone; and

3 WHEREAS, Each year, the Pittsburgh Poison Control Center
4 responds to more than 150,000 requests for poison information
5 from the general public and medical professionals and regularly
6 conducts community education and outreach programs in western
7 Pennsylvania; and

8 WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh Poison Control Center is a nationally
9 recognized poison information control center and has developed a
10 regional network of hospital treatment centers throughout this
11 Commonwealth to ensure the utmost care in all referred cases of
12 poison exposure; and

13 WHEREAS, Due to escalating health care costs, investment in
14 poison control centers is of vital importance to reduce
15 emergency room visits and the length of hospital stays, avoid
16 unnecessary hospital admissions and limit the use of expensive
17 therapies and extraneous laboratory testing; and

18 WHEREAS, For every \$1 invested in poison control centers, an
19 estimated \$13 is saved in health care expenditures; therefore be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
22 week of March 15 through 21, 2015, as "Poison Prevention Week"
23 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge all
25 residents to become aware of common sense tips to prevent
26 poisonings, such as safely storing poisonous substances, using
27 poisonous substances as directed, ensuring that children are
28 taught to ask before using a poisonous substance and keeping the
29 poison control center toll-free telephone number of 1-800-222-
30 1222 in an easily accessible location; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
2 outstanding work done by the employees and volunteers at the
3 poison control centers in this Commonwealth who assist in saving
4 lives by responding to emergencies and teaching the public how
5 to prevent poisonings.