
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 428 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, BOBACK, DONATUCCI, FREEMAN, SIMS, MILLARD, COHEN, TAYLOR, NEUMAN, BISHOP, V. BROWN, HENNESSEY, BURNS, VEREB, READSHAW, CALTAGIRONE, DIGIROLAMO, MACKENZIE, ROZZI, KIM, SCHLEGEL CULVER, SONNEY, KIRKLAND, YOUNGBLOOD, THOMAS, DAVIS, LONGIETTI, C. PARKER, WATSON, SCHREIBER, GOODMAN, ROSS, SCHWEYER, MARSICO, McNEILL, FARINA, McCARTER, D. COSTA, STURLA, MAHONEY, DEASY, MAJOR, SCHLOSSBERG, PAYNE, GINGRICH, GIBBONS, ROEBUCK, FRANKEL, PETRI, BIZZARRO, MILNE, BRADFORD AND HELM, JULY 22, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 22, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2015 as "Bullying Prevention
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians work
3 to recognize bullying, stop bullying and gain the tools
4 needed to appropriately deal with situations involving
5 bullies.

6 WHEREAS, A recent United States Department of Health and
7 Human Services study shows that 28% of students in grades 6-12
8 have experienced bullying and 20% of students in grades 9-12
9 have experienced bullying; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice states that
11 37% of all students do not feel safe at school; and

12 WHEREAS, Bullying can be verbal, physical or via the Internet
13 and can severely affect the victim's self-image, social
14 interactions and school performance, often leading to
15 insecurity, lack of self-esteem and depression in adulthood; and

1 WHEREAS, School dropout rates and absences among victims of
2 bullying are much higher than among other students; and

3 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children who have been
4 identified as a bully by eight years of age are six times more
5 likely to have a criminal conviction by 24 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Children who are bullies may continue to be bullies
7 as adults and are more prone to become child and spouse abusers;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Information about bullying suggests that there are
10 three interrelated reasons why students bully, including strong
11 needs for power and dominance, satisfaction in causing injury
12 and suffering to other students and reward for their behavior
13 with material or psychological rewards; and

14 WHEREAS, Bullying can take on many forms, including
15 derogatory comments and bad names, social exclusion or
16 isolation, hitting, kicking, shoving and spitting, lies and
17 false rumors, having money or other things taken or damaged,
18 being threatened or being forced to do things and forms of
19 racial, sexual and cyber bullying; and

20 WHEREAS, Bullying is done by both girls and boys; and

21 WHEREAS, At first glance, many people may think bullying
22 behavior is easy to define as solely physical aggression, but,
23 while that can still be considered bullying today, bullying
24 behaviors can be much more complex and varied than the
25 stereotype; and

26 WHEREAS, Harmful bullying can occur quietly and covertly,
27 through gossip or on the Internet, causing emotional damage; and

28 WHEREAS, Although definitions vary from source to source,
29 most agree that an act is defined as bullying when the behavior
30 hurts or harms another person physically or emotionally and the

1 targets have difficulty stopping the behavior directed at them
2 and struggle to defend themselves; and

3 WHEREAS, Many definitions include a statement about
4 imbalance of power, described as when the student with the
5 bullying behavior has more power, either physically, socially or
6 emotionally; and

7 WHEREAS, Many definitions also include the types of bullying,
8 including overt bullying, with physical behaviors, such as
9 fighting, hitting or name calling, and covert bullying, with
10 emotional-social interactions, such as gossiping or leaving
11 someone out on purpose; and

12 WHEREAS, When students experience bullying there are effects
13 that can last long into their future, including depression, low
14 self-esteem, health problems, poor grades and suicidal thoughts;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, It might be hard to tell the difference between
17 playful teasing and bullying, but they are not the same thing;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Teasing usually involves two or more friends who act
20 together in a way that seems fun to all the people involved and
21 they often tease each other equally, but it never involves
22 physical or emotional abuse; and

23 WHEREAS, It is also important to note that bullying is not
24 just about the implications for those targeted by the behaviors,
25 but that the behavior can impact all students in the school,
26 including those who witness the behavior and those who engage in
27 the behavior; and

28 WHEREAS, Students who bully can have a wide-ranging impact on
29 the students they bully, students who observe bullying and the
30 overall climate of the school and community; and

1 WHEREAS, When bullying continues and a school does not take
2 action, the entire school climate can be affected in many ways,
3 including the school developing an environment of fear and
4 disrespect and students having learning difficulties, feeling
5 insecure, disliking school and perceiving that teachers and
6 staff have little control and do not care about them; and

7 WHEREAS, The Office for Civil Rights in the United States
8 Department of Education and the United States Department of
9 Justice have stated that bullying may also be considered
10 harassment when it is based on a student's race, color, national
11 origin, sex, disability or religion; and

12 WHEREAS, The effects of bullying can be just as harmful to an
13 adult's emotional health as to a child's emotional health; and

14 WHEREAS, Bullying can last well into adulthood, and instead
15 of the playground, the abuse is most likely to occur in the
16 workplace; and

17 WHEREAS, According to a 2011 workplace survey, more than 41%
18 of American workers have experienced some form of workplace
19 bullying in the past year; and

20 WHEREAS, Many adults find themselves emotionally tormented by
21 fellow employees, neighbors, aggressive friends and even their
22 spouses; and

23 WHEREAS, The effects of bullying, regardless of age, can be
24 extremely psychologically damaging; and

25 WHEREAS, Harassing behaviors may include unwelcome conduct
26 such as verbal abuse, including name calling, epithets, slurs,
27 graphic or written statements, threats, physical assault or
28 other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful or
29 humiliating; and

30 WHEREAS, There is no Federal law that specifically applies to

1 bullying, rather, when bullying is based on race, color,
2 national origin, sex, disability or religion, bullying overlaps
3 with harassment and schools are legally obligated to address it;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month" is a month-
6 long effort that encourages everyone to take an active role in
7 the bullying prevention movement; therefore be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
9 month of October 2015 as "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month"
10 in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians work to recognize
11 bullying, stop bullying and gain the tools needed to
12 appropriately deal with situations involving bullies.