
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 541 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY WARD, BISHOP, BAKER, DONATUCCI, THOMAS, COHEN,
BENNINGHOFF, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, VEREB, MILLARD, KNOWLES,
METZGAR, HEFFLEY, DIGIROLAMO, DRISCOLL, KIRKLAND, QUIGLEY,
ROSS, CAUSER, MAJOR, SCHWEYER, PICKETT, R. BROWN, McNEILL,
BIZZARRO, HAHN, HICKERNELL, MARSICO, DUSH, SONNEY,
CALTAGIRONE, ROZZI, MILNE, GROVE, MAHONEY, O'NEILL, KIM,
WHEELAND, YOUNGBLOOD, PAYNE, MCGINNIS, GILLEN, GINGRICH,
NEILSON, GABLER, BRADFORD AND WATSON, OCTOBER 15, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 15, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 225th anniversary of the Borough of
2 Williamsburg, Blair County.

3 WHEREAS, The Borough of Williamsburg, the oldest borough in
4 Blair County, was founded in 1790 and incorporated in 1827; and

5 WHEREAS, The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania
6 granted a patent to George Reynolds for the unsettled territory
7 surrounding Big Spring in the Juniata Valley in 1789; and

8 WHEREAS, Drawn to that land from the Conococheague Valley,
9 Jacob Ake built a pine log home for his family after acquiring
10 hundreds of acres along the Frankstown branch of the Juniata
11 River; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Ake established a settlement known as Aketown in
13 1790, donating plots for churches and cemeteries and otherwise
14 conveying plots for housing; and

1 WHEREAS, The settlement, renamed Williamsburg in honor of Mr.
2 Ake's son, included 34 houses by 1810; and

3 WHEREAS, From 1832 through 1875, the Pennsylvania Main Line
4 Canal spurred further growth in the borough; and

5 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Railroad branch line from
6 Hollidaysburg, built in the 1870s, provided passenger service
7 through 1933 and freight service through 1982; and

8 WHEREAS, Paper manufacturing accelerated industrial
9 development in the early 20th century; and

10 WHEREAS, The Blair County Children's Home, a child welfare
11 facility established in association with the Children's Aid
12 Society, operated for the benefit of children in need from 1902
13 through 1975; and

14 WHEREAS, The Williamsburg Historic District, a part of the
15 borough featuring commercial and residential sites, schools and
16 churches, has been listed on the National Register of Historic
17 Places since 1995; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
19 225th anniversary of the Borough of Williamsburg, Blair County.