
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 405 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ARGALL, BLAKE, GORDNER, YUDICHAK, SABATINA,
FONTANA, VULAKOVICH, GREENLEAF, DINNIMAN, HUTCHINSON,
RAFFERTY, MENSCH, COSTA, RESCHENTHALER, SCHWANK, YAW AND
AUMENT, JUNE 28, 2016

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 28, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 16, 2016, as "Anthracite Heritage Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal, or hard coal, is formed by high
4 temperature and pressure and is a natural mineral with high
5 carbon content, high heat quality and few impurities; and

6 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal was mined mostly in Wales and in
7 this Commonwealth's five northeastern coalfields, encompassing
8 the counties of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland and
9 Schuylkill; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania anthracite region, or "coal
11 region," is home to the largest known deposits of anthracite
12 coal found in America; and

13 WHEREAS, Coal miners played an important part in our nation's
14 economic and cultural history and at one time accounted for 50%
15 of the male industrial work force; and

16 WHEREAS, Coal miners in the anthracite region came from
17 diverse ethnic backgrounds; and

1 WHEREAS, Coal mines were dangerous places to work as injuries
2 and deaths were commonplace and, in the late 1800s, more than
3 10,000 miners died in anthracite mine accidents; and

4 WHEREAS, Early anthracite usage was limited to local
5 consumption because it was difficult to ignite and hard to
6 transport to urban markets, making it challenging for early coal
7 companies to survive and prosper; and

8 WHEREAS, The Lehigh, Schuylkill, Delaware and Hudson canals
9 were formed to transport coal to urban markets, including
10 Philadelphia and New York City; and

11 WHEREAS, The rise of the railway system expanded the
12 anthracite industry in this Commonwealth and brought the first
13 steam locomotive to America; and

14 WHEREAS, The use of anthracite in the iron industry increased
15 the demand for hard coal and fueled the Industrial Revolution;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, The Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 was one of
18 America's largest industrial strikes and brought about increased
19 wages, shorter hours and safer working conditions for immigrants
20 working the coalfields; and

21 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal helped meet the tremendous energy
22 and production demands of two World Wars; and

23 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal production now accounts for 2
24 million tons annually; and

25 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is now the fourth largest coal-
26 producing state; and

27 WHEREAS, The anthracite industry today is responsible for
28 more than 1,000 Pennsylvania jobs and contributes more than \$200
29 million annually to the region and the State economy; and

30 WHEREAS, The importance of the contributions of coal miners

1 and the anthracite industry to our nation and our Commonwealth
2 cannot be overstated; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate July 16, 2016, as
4 "Anthracite Heritage Day" in Pennsylvania in recognition of our
5 rich anthracite mining history.