
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 448 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SCARNATI, BROOKS, McGARRIGLE, SABATINA, TEPLITZ,
MENSCH, ARGALL, FONTANA, EICHELBERGER, RESCHENTHALER,
SCAVELLO, KITCHEN, HUGHES, VULAKOVICH, WILEY, GREENLEAF,
GORDNER, BAKER, DINNIMAN, WHITE, COSTA, RAFFERTY, FARNESE,
TARTAGLIONE, WARD, HUTCHINSON, AUMENT, FOLMER, BROWNE,
KILLION, YUDICHAK AND BREWSTER, OCTOBER 13, 2016

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, OCTOBER 13, 2016

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 200th session of the General Assembly.

2 WHEREAS, The Provincial Assembly of the colony of
3 Pennsylvania first convened on December 4, 1682, in Upland, a
4 settlement on the land area where the Chester Creek entered the
5 Delaware River; and

6 WHEREAS, Operating as a unicameral body, the General Assembly
7 was enshrined in William Penn's 1682 Frame of Government as
8 having lawmaking powers that significantly expanded public
9 administration of the provincial government; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Constitution in 1776 granted
11 legislative power of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the
12 Pennsylvania Assembly, creating a unicameral House of
13 Representatives; and

14 WHEREAS, The 1790 Constitution of Pennsylvania established a
15 bicameral legislature, providing for a General Assembly

1 consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives; and

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly met for 102 sessions, annually,
3 from 1776 through 1878; and

4 WHEREAS, During that period, as the second colony to ratify
5 the Constitution of the United States and attain statehood on
6 December 12, 1787, in recognition of its notable contributions
7 to the developing Federal Government, Pennsylvania became known
8 as the Keystone State; and

9 WHEREAS, As a result of a new State Constitution in 1874, the
10 General Assembly met for 40 two-year sessions, starting in 1879
11 and lasting until 1958; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1959, the General Assembly, on recommendation by
13 the Commission on Constitutional Revision, amended the
14 Constitution and returned to counting each subsequent calendar
15 year, 58 in total, as one distinct legislative session; and

16 WHEREAS, In the span of 200 sessions, the General Assembly
17 has continued its service to the citizens of this great
18 Commonwealth through times of peace and war and diverse periods
19 of social, political and institutional change; and

20 WHEREAS, To further ensure the continuity of legislative
21 sessions, the General Assembly has been called to order in town
22 halls, inns, and taverns and convened in sites including the
23 original State House in Philadelphia, now known as Independence
24 Hall, the Lancaster County Courthouse, and the Dauphin County
25 Courthouse, the Redbrick Capitol, Grace United Methodist Church
26 and the Cobb Capitol in the City of Harrisburg; and

27 WHEREAS, The finely appointed chambers, offices, corridors
28 and other public spaces of the present Pennsylvania State
29 Capitol, conceived by architect Joseph Huston as "A Palace of
30 Art," are timelessly suited for the General Assembly's purpose

1 of conducting the people's business; and

2 WHEREAS, The 200th session of the General Assembly began on
3 January 5, 2016, when the Senate and the House of
4 Representatives observed the first day of the second year of the
5 2015-2016 legislative session; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED (the House of Representatives concurring), That the
7 General Assembly commemorate the 200th legislative session; and
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the 253 members of the General Assembly, men
10 and women representing all 67 counties of our Commonwealth,
11 reflect on our unique historical influences and proudly note the
12 steadfast and distinguished service of successive generations of
13 lawmakers; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the elected representatives of the General
15 Assembly sustain the vital role of our Commonwealth, as the
16 Keystone of our nation, in American history.