
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 15 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, MILLARD, DUSH, D. COSTA, SONNEY, ROZZI,
HENNESSEY, MURT, R. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, READSHAW, SAYLOR,
LONGIETTI, McNEILL, SCHLOSSBERG, CALTAGIRONE, NEILSON,
STURLA, BIZZARRO, DEASY, V. BROWN, GOODMAN, WATSON, GILLEN,
WARD, MARSICO AND FREEMAN, JANUARY 23, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JANUARY 23, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2017 as "Occupational Therapy
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Occupational therapy practitioners uniquely assess
4 and intervene to enable clients to fully participate in their
5 chosen daily activities, maintain employment or return to work;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Through client-centered assessments, integrated
8 approaches to plans of care and application of practitioners'
9 innovative clinical skills, individuals can overcome the effects
10 of illness, injury or any other condition, including cognitive
11 impairment, that might otherwise prevent them from living life
12 to its fullest; and

13 WHEREAS, A medical model for the clinical practice of
14 occupational therapy emerged during World War I when, in 1917,
15 the Division of Special Hospitals and Physical Reconstruction
16 was established; and

1 WHEREAS, The War Department approved the employment of
2 civilian women known as reconstruction aides, who were
3 designated as employees at large of the Medical Department; and

4 WHEREAS, Working as occupational therapists, occupational
5 therapy aides, teachers, artists and craftspersons,
6 reconstruction aides provided comprehensive care for injured
7 soldiers; and

8 WHEREAS, Occupational therapy educational programs have been
9 accredited since 1935; and

10 WHEREAS, Practicing in many ways and in many arenas,
11 occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants
12 enable clients to adapt and interact within their home or work
13 environment; and

14 WHEREAS, Hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, home health
15 agencies, schools, clinics, psychiatric facilities, community-
16 based service centers and nursing homes offer occupational
17 therapy services in this Commonwealth; and

18 WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of experienced occupational
19 therapists are transitioning into private practice; and

20 WHEREAS, Some occupational therapists work solely with
21 specific disabilities or with certain age groups; and

22 WHEREAS, Specialties include alcoholism, drug abuse, eating
23 disorders, mental health and industry-specific injury and pain
24 management; and

25 WHEREAS, The American Occupational Therapy Association has
26 identified six emerging niches in the field; and

27 WHEREAS, A broader scope of practice related to children and
28 youths in school includes social participation and mental health
29 programs for students at risk for bullying and transition
30 services for older youths with disabilities; and

1 WHEREAS, Wellness-related services include prevention and
2 management of chronic disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Productive aging focuses on maintaining function and
4 independence; and

5 WHEREAS, Rehabilitation, disability and participation is a
6 key practice enabling individuals to pursue meaningful
7 activities regardless of condition or setting; and

8 WHEREAS, Work and industry facilitates work tasks and
9 addresses adverse work conditions; and

10 WHEREAS, The effective use of health care resources,
11 including the skilled interventions of occupational therapists
12 and occupational therapy assistants, enables individuals to
13 compensate for functional loss or restore functional capacity
14 while promoting client-centered goals of wellness and
15 productivity; and

16 WHEREAS, The American Occupational Therapy Association and
17 the Pennsylvania Occupational Therapy Association are observing
18 the month of April 2017 as "Occupational Therapy Month";
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
21 month of April 2017 as "Occupational Therapy Month" in
22 Pennsylvania.