
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 595 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, PASHINSKI, LONGIETTI, BURNS,
HENNESSEY, TOOHIL, BAKER, CALTAGIRONE, DRISCOLL, DIGIROLAMO,
SAINATO, SCHLOSSBERG, NEILSON, J. HARRIS, V. BROWN, THOMAS,
MILLARD, CHARLTON, KIRKLAND, PHILLIPS-HILL, SAYLOR, WARD,
MARSICO AND EVERETT, NOVEMBER 6, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing November 16, 2017, as "The Great American Smokeout
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Smoking, secondhand smoke and broader tobacco
4 marketing were commonplace in the 1970s when annual Great
5 American Smokeout events were first observed; and

6 WHEREAS, Today more than 36 million people in the United
7 States smoke cigarettes and millions more smoke tobacco in
8 cigars or pipes; and

9 WHEREAS, Tobacco use remains the single largest preventable
10 cause of disease and premature death in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking is believed to cause approximately
12 1 in 5 deaths in the United States each year; and

13 WHEREAS, Exposure to secondhand smoke alone causes an
14 estimated 41,000 deaths per year among adults in the United
15 States; and

16 WHEREAS, Including secondhand smoke, cigarette smoking causes

1 more than 480,000 deaths annually; and

2 WHEREAS, According to the National Youth Tobacco Survey, 3.9
3 million middle and high school students used tobacco in 2016;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 2016, according to the National Youth Tobacco
6 Survey, 47.2% of high school tobacco users and 42.4% of middle
7 school tobacco users used two or more different types of tobacco
8 products; and

9 WHEREAS, E-cigarettes remain the most commonly used tobacco
10 product among youths for the last three years; and

11 WHEREAS, Millions of Americans are living with serious
12 tobacco-related illnesses; and

13 WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking increases the risk of cancers of
14 the mouth and throat, lung, esophagus, pancreas, cervix, kidney,
15 bladder, stomach, colon, rectum and liver, as well as acute
16 myeloid leukemia; and

17 WHEREAS, Smoking also greatly increases the risk of
18 debilitating, long-term lung diseases such as emphysema and
19 chronic bronchitis; and

20 WHEREAS, Smoking raises the risk for heart attack, stroke,
21 blood vessel diseases and eye diseases; and

22 WHEREAS, Half of all smokers who keep smoking will eventually
23 die from a smoking-related illness; and

24 WHEREAS, A smoker's heart rate and blood pressure drop just
25 20 minutes after quitting smoking; and

26 WHEREAS, One year after quitting smoking, the excess risk of
27 coronary heart disease is half that of someone who still smokes,
28 and the risk of heart attack drops dramatically; and

29 WHEREAS, Fifteen years after quitting smoking, a smoker's
30 risk of coronary heart disease is equivalent to the risk for a

1 nonsmoker; and

2 WHEREAS, No matter how old a smoker is or how long the
3 individual has been a smoker, quitting can help them live
4 longer, healthier lives; and

5 WHEREAS, Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, The Great
6 American Smokeout is held each year on the third Thursday of
7 November to create awareness of addiction and tobacco-related
8 diseases and deaths while promoting further regulation of
9 tobacco products and helping smokers quit; and

10 WHEREAS, Research has shown that smokers have greater success
11 quitting smoking when they have appropriate support; and

12 WHEREAS, Smoking cessation is more readily attained when
13 smokers use two or more of these recommended measures: support
14 groups, online groups, counseling, nicotine replacement,
15 prescription medicine, guide books and encouragement from
16 friends and family members; and

17 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives, noting the dangers of
18 tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, is committed to
19 the prevention and cessation of smoking and other tobacco use;
20 therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize
22 November 16, 2017, as "The Great American Smokeout Day" in
23 Pennsylvania.