
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 901 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HARPER, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, NEILSON, MILLARD,
MURT, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, MALONEY,
D. COSTA, STURLA, BRIGGS, BIZZARRO, CORBIN, METZGAR,
McCLINTON, HILL-EVANS, DIGIROLAMO, V. BROWN, BURNS, MARSICO,
VITALI, HENNESSEY, TOOHL, SAMUELSON, STAATS, D. MILLER,
MARSHALL, GROVE, DRISCOLL, SAYLOR, SCHWEYER, O'NEILL,
M. QUINN, DALEY, WARREN, ROEBUCK, HEFFLEY, GOODMAN AND
BENNINGHOFF, MAY 3, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MAY 3, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 125th anniversary of the State forest system and
2 establishment of the first State park in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, On May 23, 1893, Governor Robert E. Pattison signed
4 Act No. 68, which established the Pennsylvania Forestry
5 Commission, and on May 30 of the same year, Governor Pattison
6 signed Act No. 130, which enabled the Commonwealth to purchase
7 and establish the first State park at Valley Forge; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock, the first forestry
9 commissioner, and other visionary leaders of the Commonwealth
10 understood that forest lands stripped and denigrated by
11 unsustainable timbering and industrial activity could be
12 restored through modern conservation practices and careful
13 stewardship; and

14 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth began to establish a State Forest

1 Reserve with the purchase of 7,500 acres in Clinton County to be
2 used to "furnish timber, protect the water supply of Young
3 Woman's Creek, and to provide recreation for citizens"; and

4 WHEREAS, Mira Lloyd Dock, considered to be the mother of
5 forestry in this Commonwealth, assisted in acquiring the first
6 million acres of the State forest system and educated future
7 foresters; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Gifford Pinchot had the vision to create a
9 network of forestry work camps that served as a model for the
10 formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); and

11 WHEREAS, Governor Pinchot made extensive use of the CCC in
12 reforesting this Commonwealth and building trails, pavilions,
13 bridges, dams, cabins and other recreational amenities in our
14 State parks and State forests; and

15 WHEREAS, The Bureau of State Parks was formed in 1929 for the
16 "purpose of promoting outdoor recreation and education, and
17 making available for such use natural areas of unusual scenic
18 beauty, especially such as provide impressive views, waterfalls,
19 gorges, creeks, caves, or other unique and interesting
20 features"; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1955, the appointment of Maurice K. Goddard as
22 Secretary of Forests and Waters led to his proposal for locating
23 a State park within 25 miles of every resident in this
24 Commonwealth, culminating in the number of State parks nearly
25 doubling; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Goddard spearheaded the passage of Act No. 256
27 of 1955, known as the Oil and Gas Lease Fund Act, which
28 earmarked royalties from oil and gas leases from State-owned
29 lands for conservation and land acquisition; and

30 WHEREAS, Statutes enacted in the 1960s authorized Project 70

1 and Project 500 bond measures that provided funding for parks,
2 forestry, recreational facilities, conservation, land
3 acquisition, water quality and pollution control; and

4 WHEREAS, The passage of Act No. 50 of 1993, known as the
5 Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Act, has funded
6 hundreds of State parks and State forest improvement projects in
7 this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, From 2009 to 2011, the Bureau of State Parks was
9 awarded the nation's top honor, the National Gold Medal Award
10 for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, by the
11 American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration in
12 partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, State forests in this Commonwealth are certified as
15 "well-managed" by the Forest Stewardship Council, assuring
16 consumers from across the globe that wood products are harvested
17 in an environmentally responsible manner; and

18 WHEREAS, The recent enactment of the Growing Greener I and II
19 programs has provided valuable investments in hundreds of State
20 park and State forest projects, including modernization and
21 improvement of infrastructure; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, the State forest system is managed by the
23 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, whose central
24 location is housed in a building named after Rachel Carson, a
25 driving force of the national conservation movement in the
26 middle of the 20th century; and

27 WHEREAS, Currently, the State forest system is comprised of
28 121 State parks and conservation areas in 20 districts with more
29 than 2.2 million acres of forest land located in 48 of the 67
30 counties of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
2 125th anniversary of the State forest system and establishment
3 of the first State park in Pennsylvania.