
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1013 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, DIGIROLAMO, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI,
SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS, TOOHL,
PASHINSKI, WARD, BURNS, VAZQUEZ, LONGIETTI, KINSEY, READSHAW,
D. COSTA, WATSON, MURT, DRISCOLL, BIZZARRO, M. QUINN,
MILLARD, MARSICO, PHILLIPS-HILL, BRADFORD, SCHWEYER,
CALTAGIRONE AND FARRY, JULY 18, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JULY 18, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Observing the month of September 2018 as "Newborn Screening
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is the practice of screening every
4 newborn for certain harmful or potentially fatal conditions that
5 are not otherwise apparent at birth; and

6 WHEREAS, Early detection of these conditions in newborns
7 facilitates timely interventions that result in significant
8 decreases in morbidity, mortality and disability; and

9 WHEREAS, Newborn screening is a comprehensive system that
10 includes testing, diagnosis, follow-up, treatment, education and
11 evaluation; and

12 WHEREAS, Every year nearly 4.1 million newborns in the United
13 States and more than 140,000 newborns in Pennsylvania undergo
14 newborn screening; and

15 WHEREAS, Newborn screening was recently named in the Centers

1 for Disease Control and Prevention's list of Ten Great Public
2 Health Achievements in the 20th Century; and

3 WHEREAS, Newborn screening began in 1963 in the United States
4 with testing for phenylketonuria (PKU); and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began newborn screening with the act of
6 September 9, 1965 (P.L.497, No.251), known as the Newborn Child
7 Testing Act, by requiring physicians, hospitals and other
8 institutions to administer tests or cause tests to be
9 administered for PKU and other metabolic diseases upon infants
10 in certain cases; and

11 WHEREAS, Since first enacted in 1965, the Newborn Child
12 Testing Act has been amended three times, most recently with Act
13 148 of 2014, which expanded the list of required diseases for
14 testing from 6 to 12; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to the required testing, Pennsylvania
16 provides newborn hearing screening, testing for critical
17 congenital heart disease and follow-up screening and services
18 for other diseases; and

19 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's Newborn Screening and Follow-up
20 Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Department of
21 Health; and

22 WHEREAS, "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" was started in
23 2000 by the Save Babies Through Screening Foundation, along with
24 several partner organizations, to shine a national spotlight on
25 newborn screening and its detectable diseases; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives observe the month
27 of September 2018 as "Newborn Screening Awareness Month" in
28 Pennsylvania; and be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth officially recognize the
30 importance of awareness of newborn screening and encourage

1 parents and future parents to educate themselves and take the
2 necessary steps to ensure the health of their children.