

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1088 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY MALONEY, NEILSON, SCHLEGEL CULVER, GREINER,
READSHAW, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, DUSH, SONNEY, BURNS,
KINSEY, HAHN, CUTLER, MILLARD, RYAN, KAVULICH, DAVIS,
R. BROWN, HILL-EVANS, ZIMMERMAN, MACKENZIE, MARSICO,
DRISCOLL, HICKERNELL, CALTAGIRONE AND B. O'NEILL,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 25, 2018, as "Motorsports Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, At the turn of the 19th century, motorized vehicles
4 began to displace horses as the primary means of transportation
5 in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation; and

6 WHEREAS, As the automobile became more popular in the United
7 States in the early 20th century, it is not surprising that some
8 form of racing competition would emerge; and

9 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania, Uniontown hotelier George Flavius
10 Titlow, one of the first to own an automobile, recognized the
11 tourism potential of motorsports competition and launched the
12 Automobile Club of Fayette County; and

13 WHEREAS, The Automobile Club of Fayette County promoted the
14 first competitive automotive event in Pennsylvania, which
15 consisted of a hill climb up a winding dirt road on Summit

1 Mountain; and

2 WHEREAS, This race and other early races involved cars
3 straight from the showroom, with few modifications; and

4 WHEREAS, The first race was won by a Kline Kar, which was
5 built in York County from 1910 to 1912; and

6 WHEREAS, While subsequent hill climbs attracted many
7 competitors and thousands of spectators who lined the road to
8 the summit, the tragic death of a driver lead to the exploration
9 of potentially safer alternatives to these dangerous hill
10 climbs; and

11 WHEREAS, Following the introduction of wooden board
12 racetracks in Europe, George Titlow built one of the first board
13 tracks in the United States in Uniontown, which opened in 1916;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The track became a destination for wealthy
16 individuals and movie stars and its races were filmed by
17 Universal Pictures and shown in theaters throughout the nation;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Safety concerns regarding board tracks and the death
20 of drivers and spectators led to the demise of board tracks and
21 the rise of dirt tracks as the most viable alternative in the
22 1920s; and

23 WHEREAS, Dirt tracks were in existence prior to the 1920s,
24 including those at Point Breeze Park in Philadelphia and the
25 York Fairgrounds; and

26 WHEREAS, Numerous dirt tracks sprung up in Pennsylvania,
27 often in farmers' fields and at local fairgrounds, as venues for
28 both auto and motorcycle racing; and

29 WHEREAS, This legacy lives on today in the 33 dirt tracks
30 that are still active across this Commonwealth and host a wide

1 variety of auto racing events, including midgets, karts,
2 slingshots, late models, modifieds, sprint cars, stocks,
3 wingless, Roadrunners and more; and

4 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania hosts various motocross, road and track
5 motorcycle racing events, including the Rattlesnake National
6 Enduro race in Cross Fork, Potter County, the AMA Pro Hillclimb
7 events in Jefferson, York County, and Freemansburg, Northampton
8 County, and the Grand National Cross Country off-road race in
9 Mount Morris, Greene County; and

10 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to other types of race
11 facilities, including dragstrips, like Maple Grove Raceway,
12 located near Mohnnton, Berks County, and superspeedways, like
13 Pocono Raceway, in Long Pond, Monroe County; and

14 WHEREAS, Maple Grove Raceway is a quarter-mile dragstrip that
15 began its life as an amusement park in 1923; and

16 WHEREAS, In the 1930s, the owners added a half-mile stock car
17 track which was called the Brecknock Speedway, and the first
18 race was held in 1937; and

19 WHEREAS, While World War II brought an end to stock car
20 racing at this location, in 1957, the local motorcycle club
21 sought permission to run drag races on the straightaway of the
22 old stock car track; and

23 WHEREAS, The original one-eighth mile strip was lengthened to
24 the standard one-fifth mile length in 1962; and

25 WHEREAS, The owners of what is now Maple Grove Raceway
26 entered into a sanctioning agreement with the National Hot Rod
27 Association, which held its first national event, the Keystone
28 NHRA Nationals, in 1985 and attracted some of the top
29 competitors from around the country; and

30 WHEREAS, The Keystone NHRA Nationals bring tens of thousands

1 of spectators annually to the region and are watched by a
2 national television audience that reaches millions of viewers;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Pocono Raceway, a superspeedway which is 2.5 miles
5 long and triangular in configuration, opened in 1971; and

6 WHEREAS, Pocono Raceway was the brainchild of Philadelphia
7 dentist Joseph Mattioli, who attracted an Indycar race to the
8 facility in 1971 and subsequently secured an agreement to host
9 an event for the national stock car series, which was one of the
10 first NASCAR events to be staged outside of the South; and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's motorsports racing venues and events
12 provide great family-oriented entertainment across this
13 Commonwealth; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has benefited economically from
15 the longtime investment of a wide range of businesses that are
16 involved in the production and engineering of race cars and
17 motorcycles, as well as related services and products; therefore
18 be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
20 September 25, 2018, as "Motorsports Day" in Pennsylvania.