
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 145 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY STREET, LEACH, DINNIMAN, FONTANA, BROWNE, FARNESE,
TARTAGLIONE, HAYWOOD, YUDICHAK, COSTA AND BARTOLOTTA,
JUNE 21, 2017

REFERRED TO STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 21, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2017 as "LGBT Pride Month" in
2 Pennsylvania in celebration of LGBT accomplishments and
3 contributions to this Commonwealth and making a strong
4 recommitment to fight for LGBT equality.

5 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth was founded on the principles of
6 fairness and tolerance; and

7 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have repeatedly shown a strong belief
8 in the principles of fairness and tolerance with their service
9 defending their principles in wars and in debates,
10 demonstrations and countless other acts of democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT)
12 Pennsylvanians and their allies have played a significant role
13 in this Commonwealth's economic, cultural, spiritual and
14 political development while working tirelessly to maintain and
15 promote their culture and history; and

16 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth has been the site of many pivotal
17 moments in LGBT history and has been the location of activism
18 vital to the growing tolerance and acceptance of the LGBT

1 community; and

2 WHEREAS, In May 1965, borrowing a strategy made famous by the
3 African-American civil rights movement of the time, a group of
4 gender-variant individuals of color organized a sit-in to
5 protest discrimination toward LGBT individuals at Dewey's
6 restaurant lunch counter in Philadelphia, recognized as one of
7 the first demonstrations launched with the goal of protecting
8 the dignity of LGBT people; and

9 WHEREAS, The "Annual Reminders" protests held in front of the
10 Liberty Bell, which occurred every Independence Day between 1965
11 and 1969, drew national attention to the LGBT community's
12 struggle for liberty and equality; and

13 WHEREAS, Dewey's restaurant lunch counter and "Annual
14 Reminders" demonstrations, in conjunction with other activities
15 across the United States, greatly contributed toward the growing
16 acceptance and inclusion of LGBT Americans into their respective
17 communities; and

18 WHEREAS, The State government has traditionally been on the
19 forefront of LGBT recognition, regardless of which political
20 party was in control; and

21 WHEREAS, The Honorable Milton Shapp, former Governor of
22 Pennsylvania, founded the Commission on Sexual Minorities, which
23 was the first governmental body in the nation to examine and
24 needs and issues of the LGBT community; and

25 WHEREAS, In 1975, Governor Shapp issued the first Statewide
26 resolution in the nation recognizing LGBT equality; and

27 WHEREAS, Governor Shapp's successor, the Honorable Richard
28 Thornburgh, became the first Republican in the nation to issue a
29 Statewide resolution recognizing LGBT equality in 1979; and

30 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth remains committed to promoting

1 LGBT inclusion and quality of life, as the home of the oldest
2 continually published magazine devoted to LGBT issues, the
3 *Philadelphia Gay News*, and the nation's second most affordable
4 LGBT elder housing complex, the John C. Anderson Apartments; and

5 WHEREAS, The month of June is recognized worldwide as "LGBT
6 Pride Month," with this month being chosen to commemorate the
7 Stonewall riots in New York City, which were considered to be
8 the turning point in the fight for LGBT equality across the
9 world; and

10 WHEREAS, "LGBT Pride Month" highlights the work, struggles,
11 accomplishments and challenges of LGBT people in this
12 Commonwealth and beyond; and

13 WHEREAS, This celebration of diversity fits perfectly within
14 the long and unique story of this Commonwealth's constant quest
15 for equal treatment of all of its residents; and

16 WHEREAS, "LGBT Pride Month" celebrations contribute to a
17 welcoming atmosphere and add greatly to the social and economic
18 health and well-being of this Commonwealth; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the month of June 2017 as
20 "LGBT Pride Month" in Pennsylvania in celebration of LGBT
21 accomplishments and contributions to this Commonwealth and make
22 a strong recommitment to fight for LGBT equality.