
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 366 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, SCHWANK, FONTANA, BREWSTER, SABATINA,
BROWNE, DINNIMAN, GREENLEAF, ARGALL, REGAN, TARTAGLIONE,
FOLMER, FARNESE, GORDNER, BARTOLOTTA, BLAKE, HUGHES, COSTA,
KILLION AND VULAKOVICH, MAY 22, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MAY 22, 2018

A RESOLUTION

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

5 WHEREAS, On May 23, 1893, Governor Robert E. Pattison signed
6 Act No. 68, which established the Pennsylvania Forestry
7 Commission, the duties of which included determining the
8 suitability of lands within this Commonwealth for a State forest
9 reserve; and

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

16 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Forestry Commission began to
17 establish a State forest reserve with the purchase of 7,500
18 acres in Clinton County to be used to "furnish timber, protect

1 the water supply of Young Woman's Creek, and provide recreation
2 for citizens"; and

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

7 WHEREAS, Today the State forest system is comprised of 20
8 districts with more than 2.2 million acres of forest land
9 located in 53 of the 67 counties of this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, State forests are managed by the Department of
11 Conservation and Natural Resources to conserve their wild
12 character and maintain biological diversity while providing pure
13 water, opportunities for low-density recreation, habitats for
14 forest plants and animals, sustained yields of quality timber
15 and environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's State forests are certified as "well-
17 managed" by the Forest Stewardship Council, assuring consumers
18 from across the globe that wood products are harvested in an
19 environmentally responsible manner; and

20 WHEREAS, On May 30, 1893, Governor Pattison signed Act No.
21 130, which enabled the Commonwealth to purchase and create the
22 first State park at Valley Forge, and formed a commission to
23 acquire additional lands and construct public facilities; and

24 WHEREAS, The Bureau of State Parks was formed in 1929 for the
25 "purpose of promoting outdoor recreation and education, and
26 making available for such use natural areas of unusual scenic
27 beauty, especially such as provide impressive views, waterfalls,
28 gorges, creeks, caves, or other unique and interesting
29 features"; and

30 WHEREAS, Governor Gifford Pinchot had the vision to create a

1 network of forestry work camps that served as a model for the
2 formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and Pinchot
3 later made extensive use of the CCC in reforesting this
4 Commonwealth and building trails, pavilions, bridges, dams,
5 cabins and other recreational amenities in our State parks and
6 State forests; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1955, when Maurice K. Goddard was appointed
8 Secretary of Forests and Waters, there were 44 State parks in
9 this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Goddard proposed having a State park located
11 within 25 miles of every Pennsylvania resident and, during the
12 course of his long and distinguished tenure as secretary, the
13 number of State parks nearly doubled; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Goddard spearheaded the 1955 passage of the Oil
15 and Gas Lease Fund Act, which earmarked royalties from oil and
16 gas leases from State-owned lands for conservation and land
17 acquisition, and the Project 70 and Project 500 bond measures
18 that provided funding for parks, forestry, recreational
19 facilities, conservation, land acquisition, water quality and
20 pollution control; and

21 WHEREAS, The 1993 passage of the Keystone Recreation, Park
22 and Conservation Act has funded hundreds of State parks and
23 State forest improvements, including construction and
24 rehabilitation of restrooms, parking lots, roads, bridges,
25 visitor's centers, sewage treatment and other facilities; and

26 WHEREAS, The enactment of the Growing Greener I and II
27 programs has provided valuable investments in hundreds of State
28 park and State forest projects, including the modernization and
29 improvement of infrastructure; and

30 WHEREAS, From 2009 to 2011, the Bureau of State Parks was

1 awarded the nation's top honor, the National Gold Medal Award
2 for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, by the
3 American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration in
4 partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Today, the State park system is comprised of 121
7 State parks and conservation areas containing nearly 300,000
8 acres of land; and

9 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth receive myriad
10 benefits from our State parks and State forests, including
11 improved health, quality time with family and friends, enjoyment
12 of recreation and wildlife watching, inspiration and the
13 significant impact of tourism and recreation on both the local
14 and Statewide economy; and

15 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth are supporting the
16 missions of their State forests and State parks as volunteers
17 through the creation of 44 State forest and State park friends
18 groups; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize and celebrate the 125th
20 anniversary of the establishment of the State forest system, and
21 recognize and celebrate the 125th anniversary of the
22 establishment of the first State park in this Commonwealth.