
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 408 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, ARGALL, BLAKE, GORDNER, YUDICHAK,
BARTOLOTTA, GREENLEAF, MARTIN, SABATINA, BREWSTER, BROWNE,
SCHWANK, WHITE, VULAKOVICH AND WARD, JUNE 22, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 22, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating July 21, 2018, as "Anthracite Heritage Day" in
2 Pennsylvania and recognizing 2018 as the 250th anniversary of
3 the discovery of anthracite coal as a fuel source.

4 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal, or hard coal, is formed by high
5 temperature and pressure and is a natural mineral with high
6 carbon content, high heat quality and few impurities; and

7 WHEREAS, This year is the 250th anniversary of the discovery
8 of anthracite coal as a fuel source, the first known use having
9 been recorded in 1768 by a blacksmith in the Wilkes-Barre
10 region; and

11 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal was mined mostly in Wales and in
12 this Commonwealth's five northeastern coalfields, encompassing
13 the counties of Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Northumberland and
14 Schuylkill; and

15 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania anthracite region, or "coal
16 region," is home to the largest known deposits of anthracite
17 coal found in America; and

18 WHEREAS, Coal miners played an important part in our nation's

1 economic and cultural history and at one time accounted for 50%
2 of the male industrial work force; and

3 WHEREAS, Coal miners in the anthracite region came from
4 diverse ethnic backgrounds; and

5 WHEREAS, Coal mines were dangerous places to work as injuries
6 and deaths were commonplace and, in the late 1800s, more than
7 10,000 miners died in anthracite mine accidents; and

8 WHEREAS, Early anthracite usage was limited to local
9 consumption because it was difficult to ignite and hard to
10 transport to urban markets, making it challenging for early coal
11 companies to survive and prosper; and

12 WHEREAS, The Lehigh, Schuylkill, Delaware and Hudson canals
13 were formed to transport coal to urban markets, including
14 Philadelphia and New York City; and

15 WHEREAS, The rise of the railway system expanded the
16 anthracite industry in this Commonwealth and brought the first
17 steam locomotive to America; and

18 WHEREAS, The use of anthracite in the iron industry increased
19 the demand for hard coal and fueled the Industrial Revolution;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The Anthracite Coal Strike of 1902 was one of
22 America's largest industrial strikes and brought about increased
23 wages, shorter hours and safer working conditions for immigrants
24 working the coalfields; and

25 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal helped meet the tremendous energy
26 and production demands of two World Wars; and

27 WHEREAS, Anthracite coal production now accounts for
28 approximately 2 million tons annually; and

29 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is now the fourth largest coal-
30 producing state; and

1 WHEREAS, The anthracite industry today is responsible for
2 more than 1,000 Pennsylvania jobs and contributes more than \$200
3 million annually to the region and the State economy; and

4 WHEREAS, The importance of the contributions of coal miners
5 and the anthracite industry to our nation and our Commonwealth
6 cannot be overstated; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate July 21, 2018, as
8 "Anthracite Heritage Day" in Pennsylvania in recognition of our
9 rich anthracite mining history; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize 2018 as the 250th
11 anniversary of the discovery of anthracite coal as a fuel
12 source.