
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 139 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, SCHLOSSBERG,
HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, BURNS, RYAN, COMITTA, DIGIROLAMO,
LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, NEILSON, READSHAW, B. MILLER,
MILLARD, RAPP, MURT, FREEMAN, McCLINTON, CIRESI, MARKOSEK,
MULLINS, SCHLEGEL CULVER, YOUNGBLOOD, WILLIAMS, ROEBUCK,
KINSEY, FITZGERALD, DELLOSO, PASHINSKI, SCHWEYER, KIM, DeLUCA
AND ROZZI, MARCH 19, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
MARCH 19, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of March 2019 as "Patient Safety Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An education and awareness-building campaign for
4 improving patient safety is conducted in March of each year by
5 health care organizations and communities worldwide; and

6 WHEREAS, Patient safety is the freedom from accidental injury
7 due to medical care or medical errors and is vital to high-
8 quality medical care; and

9 WHEREAS, The landmark 1999 Institute of Medicine study, "To
10 Err is Human: Building a Safer Health System," helped launch the
11 patient safety movement by reporting that medical errors lead to
12 the deaths of as many as 98,000 people each year and that
13 medical errors relating to hospitalization cost between \$17
14 billion and \$29 billion annually; and

15 WHEREAS, The nation has made important progress in advancing

1 patient safety awareness since the release of the study,
2 including developing reporting systems and establishing national
3 data collection standards; and

4 WHEREAS, On July 29, 2005, the Patient Safety and Quality
5 Improvement Act of 2005 was signed into law and authorized the
6 creation of patient safety organizations, with the goal of
7 improving patient safety by encouraging voluntary and
8 confidential reporting of events that adversely affect patients
9 around the country; and

10 WHEREAS, Currently, there are 83 patient safety organizations
11 nationwide in 30 states, including Pennsylvania, according to
12 the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2002, the Commonwealth signed into law the
14 Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act to
15 address patient safety and medical professional liability
16 insurance reform and established the Medical Care Availability
17 and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Fund; and

18 WHEREAS, In addition, the Medical Care Availability and
19 Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act established the Patient Safety
20 Authority with the assigned mission of enhancing patient safety
21 in this Commonwealth's health care facilities through data
22 analysis and collaboration; and

23 WHEREAS, The Patient Safety Authority is committed, in
24 partnership with patients and providers, to continually improve
25 patient safety through the reduction of medical errors; and

26 WHEREAS, The Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error
27 (Mcare) Act has specific patient safety requirements; and

28 WHEREAS, The Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error
29 (Mcare) Act requires medical facilities, including acute care
30 hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities and birthing centers

1 to implement patient safety plans, appoint patient safety
2 officers and establish patient safety committees; and

3 WHEREAS, In June 2004, the Commonwealth began implementing a
4 Statewide mandatory reporting system for patient safety events
5 involving the clinical care of patients; and

6 WHEREAS, All hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities,
7 birthing centers and abortion facilities licensed by the
8 Commonwealth report through the Pennsylvania Patient Safety
9 Reporting System; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2012, more than 235,000 reports were made by
11 hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities; and

12 WHEREAS, Ninety-six and one-half percent of these reports did
13 not involve patient harm, according to the 2013 National
14 Healthcare Quality Report; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was the first state to require the
16 reporting of both patient safety events that cause harm and
17 those events, such as near misses and unsafe conditions, that do
18 not result in patient harm; and

19 WHEREAS, While measures to improve patient safety have been
20 successfully put in place, the goal of patient safety is yet to
21 be fully achieved; and

22 WHEREAS, To further ongoing efforts to improve patient
23 safety, health care providers are committed to a collaborative,
24 meaningful, long-term approach to ensure greater patient safety
25 in the delivery of health care in this Commonwealth and
26 throughout the country, and to develop and promote communication
27 tools for safer health care and the use of quality measures
28 based on evidence-based guidelines; and

29 WHEREAS, The goals and ideals of "Patient Safety Awareness
30 Month" are to focus attention on the need to improve the safety

1 of medical care, recognize the safety innovations generated by
2 frontline medical staff, celebrate patient safety successes,
3 encourage the medical community to adopt best practices that
4 increase patient safety, encourage patients to learn approaches
5 to improve the safety of their health care, promote research to
6 identify effective solutions to patient safety-related problems
7 and to acknowledge those individuals who have dedicated their
8 time and talent to help promote patient safety; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
10 month of March 2019 as "Patient Safety Awareness Month" in
11 Pennsylvania; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
13 reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to promoting patient
14 safety through education programs, supporting research and
15 expanding access to safe medical treatment.