
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 236 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY HEFFLEY, PICKETT, HENNESSEY, BIZZARRO, MEHAFFIE,
BURNS, KNOWLES, MURT, KORTZ, HILL-EVANS, RYAN, MACKENZIE,
DIGIROLAMO, CAUSER, CALTAGIRONE, SONNEY, READSHAW, BROWN,
SAINATO, FREEMAN, OBERLANDER, LONGIETTI, MILLARD, B. MILLER,
KINSEY, DeLUCA, SCHWEYER AND MARKOSEK, APRIL 16, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 16, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 20, 2019, as "Forest Firefighter Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Department of Conservation and Natural
4 Resources' Bureau of Forestry is tasked with protecting life,
5 property and natural resources in this Commonwealth from
6 wildfires; and

7 WHEREAS, To meet this challenge, Pennsylvania firefighters
8 are trained and qualified under national wildland standards to
9 function as either a member of an organized incident management
10 team or a member of a wildland crew; and

11 WHEREAS, Special equipment is needed for this undertaking,
12 and there are several avenues for the local firefighting
13 agencies to obtain the necessary items; and

14 WHEREAS, Under the Federal Excess Property Program the Bureau
15 of Forestry acquires excess Federal equipment and assigns the
16 equipment to rural fire departments as a loan; and

1 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Forestry also acquires excess military
2 equipment and transfers the equipment to fire departments and
3 emergency service agencies; and

4 WHEREAS, There are several grant programs available from
5 Federal and State sources for local firefighter programs as
6 well; and

7 WHEREAS, When called for duty to fight a wildfire, qualified
8 crews gather at the mobilization center at the Lower Swatara
9 Fire Department in Middletown, Pennsylvania; and

10 WHEREAS, While dispatched to a wildfire, which typically
11 lasts between 14 and 16 days, the firefighters are required to
12 have their own tents and Bureau of Forestry-provided personal
13 protection equipment, which includes a fire shelter, boots,
14 gloves, hard hat, eye protection and flame resistant clothing;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Since 1973, more than 150 crews of 20 individuals
17 each have been mobilized for deployment to aid with wildfire
18 suppression and hurricane emergency aid throughout the lower 48
19 states and Alaska; and

20 WHEREAS, In 2017, 289 personnel from Pennsylvania assisted 13
21 states with wildland fires, and 30 wildfires were suppressed
22 with aid from Pennsylvania air operations; therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate March
24 20, 2019, as "Forest Firefighter Day" in Pennsylvania.