
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 288 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, FRANKEL, DONATUCCI, BURNS, T. DAVIS,
KORTZ, CALTAGIRONE, LONGIETTI, PICKETT, KINSEY, MILLARD,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, DIGIROLAMO, READSHAW, HILL-EVANS, KIRKLAND,
ROZZI, JOHNSON-HARRELL, NEILSON AND GROVE, APRIL 30, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 30, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2019 as "National Drug Court Month"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The nation's first drug court was created in Miami-
4 Dade County, Florida, in 1989; and

5 WHEREAS, This new approach to confronting the drug epidemic
6 invited treatment providers into the courtroom and helped to
7 manage substance use and mental health disorders as medical
8 conditions through evidence-based treatment plans; and

9 WHEREAS, Since 1989, the expansion of drug courts has been a
10 key reform in the fight against drug abuse and criminality in
11 many jurisdictions, including within this Commonwealth; and

12 WHEREAS, Underlying chronic behaviors are the focus of these
13 specialized courts; and

14 WHEREAS, Judges work with a community team to develop a case
15 plan that includes regular court appearances, treatment sessions
16 and monitoring of an offender's compliance and aftercare; and

1 WHEREAS, Volunteer mentors may provide additional support for
2 court-involved individuals; and

3 WHEREAS, Graduated sanctions, incentives, evidence-based
4 treatment, education and training benefits and related services
5 are applied as needed; and

6 WHEREAS, "National Drug Court Month" highlights the
7 collective impact of adult drug courts, juvenile drug courts,
8 family dependency treatment courts, tribal healing to wellness
9 courts, DWI/DUI courts and Veterans Treatment Courts; and

10 WHEREAS, These courts have effectively reduced drug abuse,
11 crime and recidivism while significantly improving treatment
12 outcomes and saving taxpayer money; and

13 WHEREAS, These courts have facilitated community partnerships
14 to broadly enhance criminal justice, public safety and public
15 health; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, there are more than 3,000 drug courts
17 throughout the United States, with approximately 150,000 people
18 being served by these courts each year; and

19 WHEREAS, Drug courts save an average of \$6,000 for every
20 individual they serve; and

21 WHEREAS, According to the National Institute of Justice, 84%
22 of drug court graduates have not been rearrested or charged with
23 a serious crime in the first year after their graduation; and

24 WHEREAS, The Urban Institute cites a report from the National
25 Association of Drug Court Professionals that shows drug courts
26 provide \$2.21 in benefits, and up to \$3.36 in benefits among
27 expanded programs, for every \$1 invested; and

28 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives applaud the commitment
29 and coordination among drug court defendants, judges, case
30 management professionals and volunteers in the pursuit of

1 comprehensive intervention, treatment completion, family
2 reunification and sustained recovery; therefore be it
3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
4 month of May 2019 as "National Drug Court Month" in
5 Pennsylvania.