
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 554 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY READSHAW, McNEILL, KORTZ, KULIK, HILL-EVANS,
MIHALEK, CALTAGIRONE, JOZWIAK, HENNESSEY, HARKINS, JONES,
BURNS, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, DiGIROLAMO, MERSKI, HANBIDGE,
JAMES, BROWN, DELLOSO, MILLARD, KINSEY, POLINCHOCK, BIZZARRO,
DeLUCA, SAINATO, MENTZER, LONGIETTI, T. DAVIS, MOUL, WARREN,
DEASY AND SCHWEYER, OCTOBER 11, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, OCTOBER 11, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the continuing work of the Veterans Courts in this
2 Commonwealth.

3 WHEREAS, With more than 800,000 veterans in this
4 Commonwealth, the Supreme Court recognized a need for a problem
5 solving court to address the unique issues involving
6 Pennsylvania's veterans; and

7 WHEREAS, Veterans Courts are designed to assist veterans
8 charged with crimes who are struggling with addiction, mental
9 illness or co-occurring disorders and come in contact with the
10 criminal justice system; and

11 WHEREAS, Veterans Courts connect veterans with services,
12 benefits and program providers to ultimately reduce recidivism
13 among military veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, Veterans involved in Veterans Courts receive support
15 and guidance from veteran mentors, are supervised by specialized

1 probation officers and receive treatment and support from the
2 Veterans Administration to address underlying problems often
3 caused by posttraumatic stress disorder; and

4 WHEREAS, The first Veterans Court in this Commonwealth opened
5 in Lackawanna County in 2009; and

6 WHEREAS, Veterans Courts are now located in 20 counties
7 within this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, Working with the Administrative Office of
9 Pennsylvania Courts, the Veterans Administration and the
10 Statewide Veterans Justice Partnership Task Force, the Supreme
11 Court has advanced the concept and implementation of the
12 Veterans Judicial Courts; and

13 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania continues to innovate and implement the
14 Veterans Court system by working with the National Center for
15 State Courts to develop performance measures for Commonwealth
16 Veterans Treatment Courts that may also be used as a nationwide
17 resource; therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the
19 continuing work of the Veterans Courts in this Commonwealth; and
20 be it further

21 RESOLVED, That, in honoring this work, the House of
22 Representatives raise awareness of the efforts of the Veterans
23 Courts in this Commonwealth to provide comprehensive treatment,
24 resources and support with the goals of encouraging
25 rehabilitation and reducing recidivism among Pennsylvania's
26 large veteran population.