
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 666 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, BIZZARRO, KORTZ, YOUNGBLOOD, HARKINS,
WARREN, SCHLOSSBERG, BOBACK, CIRESI, LONGIETTI, RAVENSTAHL,
BURNS, MURT, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS, KIM, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON,
GAINNEY, ULLMAN, SONNEY, McCLINTON, KINSEY, GALLOWAY, ROEBUCK,
SCHWEYER, McNEILL, MADDEN, HANBIDGE, T. DAVIS, WILLIAMS,
PASHINSKI AND BROOKS, JANUARY 17, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY,
JANUARY 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of January 2020 as "Safe Drinking Water
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Safe drinking water is necessary to an individual's
4 well-being and survival; and

5 WHEREAS, Access to pure water is deemed a public right under
6 section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of Pennsylvania; and

7 WHEREAS, Section 27 of Article I of the Constitution of
8 Pennsylvania provides that "The people have a right to clean
9 air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic,
10 historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's
11 public natural resources are the common property of all the
12 people, including generations yet to come"; and

13 WHEREAS, The Federal Government began pushing for greater
14 protections of water resources during the 1970s; and

15 WHEREAS, The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act was passed by

1 Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the
2 nation's public drinking water supply; and

3 WHEREAS, The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act authorizes the
4 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set
5 national health-based standards for drinking water to protect
6 against naturally occurring and man-made contaminants that may
7 be found in drinking water supplies; and

8 WHEREAS, According to the EPA, the improper disposal of
9 chemicals, animal waste, pesticides, human threats, waste
10 injected underground and naturally occurring substances all
11 contribute to the contamination of drinking water; and

12 WHEREAS, Originally, the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act
13 focused primarily on the treatment of water as the means for
14 providing safe drinking water to people; and

15 WHEREAS, However, in 1996, amendments to the Federal Safe
16 Drinking Water Act greatly enhanced the existing law by
17 recognizing source water protection, operator training, funding
18 for water system improvements and public information as
19 important components of safe drinking water; and

20 WHEREAS, The EPA sets national standards for drinking water;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The EPA requires that water systems test for
23 contaminants, provides guidance, assistance and public
24 information about drinking water, collects data on drinking
25 water and oversees state drinking water programs; and

26 WHEREAS, The EPA provides grant funding for the
27 implementation of state drinking water programs and helps each
28 state set up a special fund to provide financial assistance to
29 public water systems for water quality improvements; and

30 WHEREAS, States may apply to the EPA for the authority to

1 implement safe drinking water standards if those standards meet
2 the standards set by the EPA; and

3 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act provides
4 for safe drinking water standards and enforcement of the
5 standards in this Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, The EPA and states may issue administrative orders,
7 take legal actions and fine utility companies that do not comply
8 with safe drinking water standards; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
10 month of January 2020 as "Safe Drinking Water Month" in
11 Pennsylvania.