
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 809 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY BROWN, DELOZIER, HENNESSEY, PASHINSKI, BIZZARRO,
KORTZ, SONNEY, KOSIEROWSKI, JAMES, FEE, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS,
PICKETT, MILLARD, BERNSTINE, RYAN, FREEMAN, READSHAW, BURNS,
MURT, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, SCHMITT, MACKENZIE, SCHLEGEL
CULVER, KIM, DEASY, NEILSON, STAATS, YOUNGBLOOD, ZIMMERMAN
AND CONKLIN, MARCH 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2020 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation,
4 sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United
5 States, accounting for an estimated 325,000 deaths each year;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is a condition in which the
8 heart unexpectedly ceases to function due to ventricular
9 fibrillation, an irregular and rapid quivering of the heart's
10 lower pumping chambers; and

11 WHEREAS, When this occurs, blood stops flowing to the brain
12 and other vital organs, causing loss of consciousness or
13 seizure-like activity in seconds; and

14 WHEREAS, Anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest,
15 including infants, high school athletes and individuals 30 years
16 of age or older who have no sign of heart disease; and

1 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the
2 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute giving the disease a
3 mortality rate of approximately 95%; and

4 WHEREAS, The normal rhythm of the heart can only be restored
5 with defibrillation, an electrical shock that is safely
6 delivered to the chest by an automated external defibrillator
7 (AED); and

8 WHEREAS, If not treated within minutes, sudden cardiac arrest
9 results in death; and

10 WHEREAS, For every minute that passes without defibrillation,
11 the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10%; and

12 WHEREAS, Lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are
13 effective if administered in time; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the American Heart Association,
15 cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an
16 AED more than double the chances that a victim will survive; and

17 WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is frequently the outcome of
18 an underlying heart condition and often secondary to other
19 conditions such as impact to the chest, heat stroke, asthma,
20 drowning, electrocution and allergic reaction or adverse
21 reaction to medication; and

22 WHEREAS, There is a need for comprehensive educational
23 efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest
24 among medical professionals and the greater public in order to
25 promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and
26 improve quality of life; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
28 month of October 2020 as "Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month"
29 in Pennsylvania to increase awareness and prompt treatment of
30 sudden cardiac arrest.