
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 872 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, GALLOWAY, WEBSTER, YOUNGBLOOD,
HANBIDGE, ROZZI, DRISCOLL, VITALI, NEILSON, HILL-EVANS,
McCLINTON, SANCHEZ, KENYATTA, DONATUCCI, DELLOSO, HOWARD,
GAINEY, KORTZ, GREEN AND READSHAW, MAY 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS,
MAY 13, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Encouraging food donations and recognizing the importance of
2 liability protections under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan
3 Food Donation Act and the Donated Food Limited Liability Act
4 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 WHEREAS, Many residents of Pennsylvania are experiencing
6 financial hardships, as well as burdensome worries, relative to
7 the potential effects that the COVID-19 pandemic could have on
8 the health and safety of their friends and family; and

9 WHEREAS, The possibility of contracting COVID-19 is just one
10 of the strains currently placed on many residents located across
11 our Commonwealth and nation; and

12 WHEREAS, In addition to experiencing stress and worry
13 relative to the potential health implications related to this
14 virus, many residents are also facing growing concerns with
15 regard to their personal finances; and

16 WHEREAS, For many individuals who are now out of work, the
17 ability to purchase simple necessities may currently be beyond

1 their reach; and

2 WHEREAS, For some individuals and families, the likelihood of
3 facing food insecurity has grown significantly due to the lack
4 of a steady and reliable income; and

5 WHEREAS, It is now more important than ever that individuals
6 who are able to weather the current economic storm lend a
7 helping hand to those in need; and

8 WHEREAS, Given the current circumstances under which many
9 individuals and families are now living due to social distancing
10 and the widespread closure of businesses as a result of the
11 COVID-19 pandemic, providing food donations to nonprofit
12 organizations is extremely important; and

13 WHEREAS, Many nonprofit organizations located throughout
14 local communities of this Commonwealth regularly collect and
15 distribute food donations and other essential items to
16 individuals and families in need; and

17 WHEREAS, These nonprofit organizations not only provide
18 necessary food items and goods through charitable acts, but they
19 also ease the financial and mental strains of those experiencing
20 hardships; and

21 WHEREAS, While many nonprofit organizations have the
22 capability of providing assistance and goods to local
23 communities scattered across Pennsylvania, they too rely on the
24 spirit of giving from individuals who are willing and able to
25 donate to their cause; and

26 WHEREAS, According to the Pennsylvania Department of
27 Agriculture, before the COVID-19 pandemic began impacting the
28 Commonwealth, more than 1.5 million residents of this
29 Commonwealth experienced chronic hunger each day; and

30 WHEREAS, Since the arrival of COVID-19, Feeding Pennsylvania

1 member food banks have reported a significant increase in the
2 demand for food assistance throughout their respective
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, When acknowledging the good and charitable efforts
5 of nonprofit organizations, it is important to also recognize
6 the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (Public Law
7 104-210, 110 Stat. 3011) and the act of July 10, 1981 (P.L.234,
8 No.76), known as the Donated Food Limited Liability Act; and

9 WHEREAS, These laws provide protection to individuals who
10 donate food in good faith from civil or criminal liability
11 related to their food donations; and

12 WHEREAS, Because of these legislative measures, individuals
13 who are striving to do the right thing by donating food to those
14 who are less fortunate are guaranteed a level of protection from
15 liability if something should be wrong with a donated food item;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, These laws also provide individuals with a feeling
18 of comfort and safety when donating food items to nonprofit
19 organizations that are better equipped to collect, process and
20 distribute the items to members of their community; therefore be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage food
23 donations and recognize the importance of liability protections
24 under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act and the
25 Donated Food Limited Liability Act during the COVID-19 pandemic.