
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 984 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY SONNEY, GILLESPIE, HARKINS, WENTLING, BIZZARRO,
BURNS, DONATUCCI, GREINER, JAMES, M. K. KELLER, KINSEY,
LONGIETTI, MOUL, MURT, NEILSON, READSHAW, RYAN AND
YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 28, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
AUGUST 28, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 7, 2020, as "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
2 River Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system, including Lake Erie, Lake
4 Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and the St.
5 Lawrence River, is a globally significant resource and
6 ecosystem, holding 21% of the world's surface fresh water; and

7 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide
8 drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians
9 and supply 56 billion gallons of water per day for municipal,
10 agricultural and industrial use; and

11 WHEREAS, On September 7, 2012, by signing a revised Great
12 Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada
13 reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to
14 restore, protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great
15 Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes
16 basin"; and

1 WHEREAS, An abundant supply of clean, affordable water is
2 essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy
3 and a well-functioning ecosystem; and

4 WHEREAS, As the major source of water for communities located
5 within the Great Lakes basin, the Great Lakes system is a vital
6 resource in which all the region's residents share a common
7 interest; and

8 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse for
9 the region, supporting industries including shipping,
10 agriculture, technology, manufacturing, recreation and tourism;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The waters and shoreline of the Great Lakes system
13 provide exceptional habitat for thousands of species of native
14 mammals, birds, amphibians, fish and plants; and

15 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes basin is home to numerous beaches,
16 parks, forests, harbors, marinas, piers, lighthouses, boardwalks
17 and islands that provide recreational opportunities for
18 swimming, hiking, surfing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, fishing,
19 hunting, photography, wildlife watching and more; and

20 WHEREAS, Lake Erie is among Pennsylvania's most valuable
21 natural resources and has extraordinary economic value for this
22 Commonwealth; and

23 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Lake Erie coastal region provides a
24 home for an estimated 250,000 Pennsylvania residents and more
25 than 3,000 jobs, Presque Isle State Park, which attracts 4
26 million visitors who spend an estimated \$76.9 million annually,
27 a tourism and recreation industry that contributes more than \$65
28 million to Pennsylvania's economy, harbors and marinas that
29 support a \$71 million annual recreational boating industry and a
30 growing steelhead fishery that generates nearly \$10 million in

1 expenditures and \$6 million in value-added activity in Erie
2 County; and

3 WHEREAS, People greatly value the opportunity to live, work
4 and play in areas near waters that are vibrant, beautiful and
5 life-sustaining; and

6 WHEREAS, The region's environment, economy and people rely on
7 the clean healthy waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
8 River; therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
10 September 7, 2020, as "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River
11 Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all
13 residents to learn about the importance of the Great Lakes and
14 St. Lawrence River to the economy and the environment of this
15 Commonwealth.