

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1082 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, MURT, LONGIETTI, BURNS, GALLOWAY,
HANBIDGE, HOWARD, KINSEY, MADDEN, McNEILL, ROZZI, SCHMITT,
WEBSTER, BURGOS, MENTZER, GREEN AND DRISCOLL,
OCTOBER 22, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 22, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2020 as "Assistive Technology
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, An assistive technology device is any item, piece of
4 equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially,
5 modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain or
6 improve the functional capabilities of individuals with
7 disabilities or older individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, An assistive technology service is any service that
9 directly assists an individual in the selection, acquisition or
10 use of an assistive technology device; and

11 WHEREAS, Assistive technology devices and services are tools
12 that empower individuals to control their lives and their
13 futures through the ability to work, attend school, play and
14 live in the community of their choice; and

15 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians of all ages with disabilities may
16 need assistive technology devices and services to live

1 independently and productively as well as to participate fully
2 in their communities; and

3 WHEREAS, Assistive technology has been proven to improve the
4 quality of life and capabilities of those living with
5 disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder, blindness,
6 deafness, mobility impairment, communication disorders and
7 learning disabilities; and

8 WHEREAS, Connecting individuals with the assistive technology
9 that they need can serve as the bridge to reaching academic,
10 occupational or personal success; and

11 WHEREAS, Ensuring people of all ages who are currently living
12 with a disability have access to quality and affordable
13 assistive technology should remain a priority for this
14 Commonwealth as such devices can be life-saving tools for
15 individuals seeking to live dignified and independent lives; and

16 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is a leader in the development and
17 implementation of assistive technology programs for residents
18 with disabilities and older residents; and

19 WHEREAS, Working in conjunction with organizations such as
20 the Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF), the
21 Commonwealth provides valuable information and support,
22 financial education and financing for the purchase of assistive
23 technology devices and services; and

24 WHEREAS, In the most recent decade, PATF has been able to
25 connect almost 10,000 individuals with disabilities with the
26 resources that they need; and

27 WHEREAS, As a result of such partnership, more than \$1.4
28 million in low-interest loans have been granted to individuals
29 with disabilities since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in
30 efforts to address the unprecedented need for telehealth

1 services and home-based assistive technology for those who are
2 working and learning from home; and

3 WHEREAS, Greater attention should be paid to the methods in
4 which the Commonwealth can better support individuals living
5 with disabilities by making our roadways, workplaces, public
6 facilities and outdoor spaces more accommodating for individuals
7 of all ability levels, while maintaining the appropriate funding
8 necessary to continue to serve our fellow Pennsylvanians;
9 therefore be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
11 month of November 2020 as "Assistive Technology Awareness Month"
12 in Pennsylvania; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives acknowledge the
14 work that is yet to be done in serving the population of
15 Pennsylvanians living with a disability.