

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 174 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, BROOKS, BREWSTER, STREET, FARNESE, LANGERHOLC, ARGALL, DINNIMAN, FOLMER, PHILLIPS-HILL, FONTANA, MARTIN, SCAVELLO, HUGHES, GORDNER, SCHWANK, K. WARD, BROWNE, COSTA, BAKER, HUTCHINSON, KILLION, YUDICHAK, AUMENT, MENSCH, BLAKE, TARTAGLIONE, BARTOLOTTA, HAYWOOD, J. WARD AND KEARNEY, JUNE 18, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th
 2 Amendment, the constitutional amendment extending equal
 3 voting rights to women.

4 WHEREAS, Late 19th century and early 20th century political,
 5 legal and social reformers, influenced by progressive Quakers,
 6 abolitionists and feminists, asserted their rights to assemble
 7 and dissent on behalf of women's suffrage; and

8 WHEREAS, These reformers built a nonviolent mass movement
 9 through decades of strategic activism, concentrated outreach and
 10 persistence as militant dimensions emerged; and

11 WHEREAS, United States Senator Thomas Palmer, expressing
 12 support for a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage in
 13 February 1885, noted: "In its progress [the suffrage campaign]
 14 has benefited all and injured none"; and

15 WHEREAS, While some state legislatures passed suffrage laws,
 16 the Congress of the United States blocked or defeated proposed

1 constitutional amendments; and

2 WHEREAS, Liliane Stevens Howard, in a 1915 field report on
3 women's suffrage in Pennsylvania, observed "[p]lenty of
4 sentiment in New Castle, [Lawrence County,] but little
5 inclination to work"; and

6 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania voters defeated a 1915 Statewide
7 referendum; and

8 WHEREAS, On September 30, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson
9 endorsed women's suffrage as a wartime measure; and

10 WHEREAS, Approval by Congress followed on June 4, 1919; and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, the eighth state to ratify, approved
12 the measure on June 24, 1919; and

13 WHEREAS, On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified
14 as submitted and approved by 36 state legislatures; and

15 WHEREAS, Millions of women voted in national elections for
16 the first time in 1920; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the 100th anniversary of
18 ratification of the 19th Amendment, the constitutional amendment
19 extending equal voting rights to women.