
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 277 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY MENSCH, GORDNER, BROWNE, PHILLIPS-HILL,
BARTOLOTTA, FARNESE, SCHWANK, FONTANA, COLLETT, IOVINO,
DINNIMAN, J. WARD, LANGERHOLC, ARGALL, HUGHES, SANTARSIERO,
YAW, PITTMAN, COSTA, MASTRIANO, SABATINA, YUDICHAK,
TARTAGLIONE, BAKER, KILLION AND HUTCHINSON, DECEMBER 18, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, DECEMBER 18, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the Special Olympics Pennsylvania on the 50th
2 anniversary of its founding.

3 WHEREAS, Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA) is an
4 organization committed to providing opportunities for
5 individuals with intellectual disabilities to develop physical
6 fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in
7 a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship; and

8 WHEREAS, SOPA was founded in May 1970 and held its first
9 official Pennsylvania event, a small track and field competition
10 at West Chester University, for 135 brave athletes; and

11 WHEREAS, SOPA now trains nearly 20,000 athletes within 55
12 local programs across this Commonwealth that compete annually in
13 21 Olympic-type sports at more than 300 local, sectional and
14 State-level competitions; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout its 50-year history, SOPA has used the
16 power of sports, education and leadership programs to transform

1 the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and unite
2 everyone by fostering community and building a more acceptable
3 and civil society; and

4 WHEREAS, SOPA also helps address major challenges facing its
5 athletes with respect to obesity, health care and employment;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, SOPA is part of a global inclusion movement that
8 strives to end discrimination against and empower people with
9 intellectual disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, SOPA is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its
11 founding; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate honor the Special Olympics
13 Pennsylvania on the 50th anniversary of its founding; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate join the staff, athletes and
16 volunteers of Special Olympics Pennsylvania in celebrating the
17 50th anniversary of its founding.