
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 89 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HANBIDGE, SANCHEZ, BOBACK, LONGIETTI, HILL-EVANS,
FREEMAN, SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG, HOWARD, ISAACSON, HOHENSTEIN,
WEBSTER, GALLOWAY, MADDEN, PASHINSKI, NEILSON, MALAGARI,
CONKLIN, SAINATO AND BRIGGS, APRIL 12, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 12, 2021

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2021 as "Civic Education
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is where the constitutional
4 government for the United States of America began 234 years ago;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, We, the American people, must heed President Abraham
7 Lincoln's charge to ensure "that government of the people, by
8 the people and for the people, shall not perish from the earth";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, To maintain a government by and for the people, the
11 United States needs a citizenry that understands the history and
12 foundation of our representative democracy, the role of strong
13 institutions in facilitating effective collective decisionmaking
14 and the essential nature of active community participation in
15 our system of self-governance; and

16 WHEREAS, Only 39% of Americans can name the three branches of
17 our national government; and

1 WHEREAS, The highest national voter turnout in an election
2 since 1970 was just 66% of the voting eligible population; and

3 WHEREAS, On the most recent national civic knowledge test,
4 only 24% of eighth grade students scored at or above the
5 proficient level; and

6 WHEREAS, Effective civic education is linked to higher voter
7 turnout, increased collaborative skills and lower dropout rate,
8 among many other benefits; and

9 WHEREAS, Schools have the capacity to reach nearly every
10 young person in the country and are therefore essential in
11 establishing and maintaining a robust culture of civic
12 engagement for future generations of Americans; and

13 WHEREAS, Act 35 of 2018 requires each school entity to
14 administer at least once to students in grades 7 through 12 an
15 assessment of United States history, government and civics,
16 beginning with the 2020-2021 school year; and

17 WHEREAS, All Pennsylvanians could benefit from civic
18 education to encourage greater engagement and involvement in the
19 American political process; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
21 designate the month of October 2021 as "Civic Education
22 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly urge all residents of
24 this Commonwealth to celebrate efforts to educate and inform
25 American citizens about their rights and responsibilities as
26 citizens and the importance of civic engagement.