
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 172 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY RABB, BULLOCK, KINSEY, KENYATTA, HILL-EVANS, LEE,
BRIGGS, DALEY, KIRKLAND, SCHLOSSBERG, LONGIETTI, GUENST,
HOHENSTEIN, SAMUELSON, SANCHEZ, BURGOS, MADDEN, ROZZI,
A. DAVIS, GAINEY, NEILSON, WEBSTER, INNAMORATO, GALLOWAY,
CIRESI, McCLINTON, GUZMAN, KIM AND FRANKEL, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 4, 2022

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 3, 2021, as "Emancipation Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the
4 United States, which abolished slavery, passed the United States
5 Senate on April 8, 1864, and the United States House of
6 Representatives on January 31, 1865; and

7 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln approved a joint
8 resolution of Congress which was submitted to the state
9 legislatures for ratification; a process which requires an
10 affirmative vote from three-fourths of the states in order to
11 amend the Constitution; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania was one of the first states to approve
13 the measure as the General Assembly voted in support of
14 ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment and forever prohibiting
15 slavery within the United States on February 3, 1865; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's role as a leader in the abolishment

1 of slavery following the state's enactment of the Gradual
2 Abolition Act of 1780 helped contribute to the success of the
3 adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment; and

4 WHEREAS, On the condition of ratifying the amendment to be
5 re-admitted to the Union, Alabama became the 27th state to
6 ratify the Thirteenth Amendment on December 2, 1865, giving the
7 amendment the required approval of a three-fourths majority of
8 states to effectively abolish slavery in the United States of
9 America; and

10 WHEREAS, The adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment found a
11 final constitutional solution to the issue of slavery and, in
12 tandem with the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments, greatly
13 expanded civil rights for Black Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, The Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments,
15 which abolished slavery, guaranteed equal protection under the
16 law and granted the right to vote, are known as the
17 Reconstruction Amendments; and

18 WHEREAS, Following the passage of these amendments, many
19 Black men and women had a newfound freedom they celebrated and
20 valued; and

21 WHEREAS, Numerous Black individuals actively took up the
22 rights and opportunities of citizenship and held elected
23 government offices, including United States Senators and
24 Representatives; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
26 recognize February 3, 2021, as "Emancipation Day" in
27 Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly commemorate the historic
29 act of the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment by the
30 Pennsylvania General Assembly on February 3, 1865.