
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 39 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY MARTIN, BROWNE, ARGALL, MENSCH, VOGEL, PHILLIPS-
HILL, BARTOLOTTA, J. WARD, LANGERHOLC, SCAVELLO, ROBINSON,
DISANTO, PITTMAN, STEFANO, MASTRIANO, KEARNEY, KANE AND
FONTANA, MARCH 11, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, MARCH 11, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating March 21, 2021, as "World Down Syndrome Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs in
4 approximately 1 in 1,100 live births worldwide according to the
5 World Health Organization; and

6 WHEREAS, Down Syndrome occurs in approximately 1 in 700 live
7 births in the United States according to the Centers for Disease
8 Control and prevention; and

9 WHEREAS, It is difficult to determine the number of
10 individuals currently living with Down syndrome worldwide,
11 however, some sources estimate the number to be more than 6
12 million; and

13 WHEREAS, The most common form of Down syndrome, trisomy 21,
14 is due to an error in cell division, just prior to or during
15 conception, with the 21st chromosome dividing in three instead
16 of two, resulting in a person being born with 47 instead of 46
17 chromosomes in each cell; and

1 WHEREAS, Early intervention, appropriate speech, physical and
2 occupational therapies and quality education programs enable
3 individuals with Down syndrome to adapt and thrive; and

4 WHEREAS, Thanks to advances in medical treatments and
5 continuing research, life expectancy for individuals with Down
6 syndrome worldwide has increased dramatically, with a large
7 majority living beyond 50 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals with Down syndrome consistently prove
9 their ability to overcome obstacles; and

10 WHEREAS, With interventions and programs and the support of
11 family and community, individuals with Down syndrome attend
12 school and participate in postsecondary opportunities, with many
13 going on to college, obtaining full-time employment, entering
14 into marriage and fully participating in their communities; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals living with Down syndrome have excelled
16 in various fields, including becoming global influencers,
17 fashion designers, lobbyists, accomplished musicians, teachers,
18 leaders of large nonprofits and small business entrepreneurs;
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate March 21, 2021, as "World
21 Down Syndrome Day" in Pennsylvania; and be further

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the numerous
23 contributions that individuals with Down syndrome and their
24 families make not only in our great Commonwealth, but across the
25 globe.