
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 150 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY KANE, KEARNEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, BROWNE, HUGHES,
FONTANA, MUTH, STEFANO, YUDICHAK, STREET AND COMMITTA,
JULY 7, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JULY 7, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating August 31, 2021, as "Overdose Awareness Day" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is a chronic disease characterized by
4 compulsive or difficult-to-control drug use despite harmful
5 consequences; and

6 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization
8 as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to
9 overdose and death; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2019, 70,630 individuals died from drug overdoses
11 in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease
12 Control and Prevention; and

13 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, in 2019, 4,458 people died
14 from drug overdoses, according to the Pennsylvania Department of
15 Health; and

16 WHEREAS, For every drug overdose that results in death there
17 are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and

1 economic toll on the individual, their family and the community
2 at large; and

3 WHEREAS, Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt,
4 embarrassment, depression and hopelessness, causing individuals
5 to resist seeking treatment and support; and

6 WHEREAS, "Overdose Awareness Day" is a global event held on
7 August 31 of each year that aims to raise awareness of drug
8 overdoses, to reduce the stigma of a drug-related death and to
9 acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering
10 those who have died or who have had a permanent injury as a
11 result of a drug overdose; and

12 WHEREAS, Recognizing "Overdose Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania
13 sends a strong message to former or current substance users that
14 they are valued and that overdose death is preventable;
15 therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate August 31, 2021, as
17 "Overdose Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to raise awareness of
18 overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death;
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Governor be respectfully requested to
21 order flags be flown at half staff and to issue a proclamation
22 calling upon public officials and the residents of this
23 Commonwealth to observe "Overdose Awareness Day" with
24 appropriate activities and programs.