
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 168 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 22, 2021, as "Falls Prevention Awareness
2 Day" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Individuals who are 65 years of age or older are the
4 fastest growing segment of the population in the United States;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The number of older adults in the United States will
7 increase from approximately 52 million in 2018 to an estimated
8 95 million by 2060; and

9 WHEREAS, Approximately 30% of older adults in the United
10 States fall each year, with each five-year increment in age
11 increasing the risk of falls; and

12 WHEREAS, Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and
13 nonfatal injuries among older adults; and

14 WHEREAS, In 2015, the total direct medical cost of fall-
15 related injuries for older adults, was approximately \$50
16 billion, adjusted for inflation; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2017, more than 31,000 older adults died from
18 injuries related to unintentional falls, and the death rate from

1 falls of older adults in the United States is expected to
2 continue to sharply rise to more than 100,000 per year by 2030;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In 2018, approximately 3 million older adults were
5 treated in hospital emergency departments for fall-related
6 injuries, and nearly 870,000 of those older adults were
7 subsequently hospitalized; and

8 WHEREAS, The annual cost of fall injuries will surpass \$100
9 billion by 2030; and

10 WHEREAS, Evidence-based programs reduce falls by utilizing
11 cost-effective strategies, such as exercise programs to improve
12 balance and strength, medication management, vision improvement,
13 reduction of home hazards and fall prevention education;
14 therefore be it

15 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate September 22, 2021, as
16 "Falls Prevention Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to raise
17 awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older
18 adults; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize there are proven, cost-
20 effective falls prevention programs and policies; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the Pennsylvania State
23 Falls Free Coalition and the falls prevention coalitions in 43
24 states and the District of Columbia for their efforts to work
25 together to increase education and awareness about preventing
26 falls among older adults; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage businesses, individuals,
28 Federal, State and local governments, the public health
29 community and health care providers to work together to raise
30 awareness of falls in an effort to reduce the incidence of falls

1 among older adults in the United States; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the Centers for Disease
3 Control and Prevention for its work developing and evaluating
4 interventions for all members of health care teams to make falls
5 prevention a routine part of clinical care; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the Administration for
7 Community Living for its work to promote access to evidence-
8 based programs and services in communities across Pennsylvania;
9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Department of Health
11 and Department of Aging to continue providing significant
12 leadership in reducing injuries and related health care costs by
13 collaborating with organizations and individuals to reduce falls
14 among older adults, and to encourage experts in the field of
15 falls prevention to share their best practices so that their
16 success can be replicated by others.