
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 263 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, BROWNE, HUGHES, PHILLIPS-HILL,
MARTIN, SCAVELLO, COMITTA, BARTOLOTTA, LAUGHLIN, FONTANA,
CAPPELLETTI, STREET, MENSCH, SCHWANK, BOSCOLA, COSTA, J. WARD
AND STEFANO, APRIL 8, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 8, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 2022 as "Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention
2 Month" and further designating the first Monday in May 2022
3 as "Melanoma Monday" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the
5 United States, with more than 3.5 million new cases diagnosed
6 each year; and

7 WHEREAS, Skin cancer occurs when ultraviolet radiation from
8 the sun damages skin cells and triggers mutations that cause the
9 cells to multiply rapidly and form malignant tumors; and

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that one in five Americans will
11 develop skin cancer in the course of their lifetime; and

12 WHEREAS, Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer
13 and the leading cause of death from skin disease; and

14 WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2022,
15 99,780 new cases of melanoma will be diagnosed in the United
16 States and 7,650 people will die from melanoma; and

17 WHEREAS, Melanomas, which often resemble moles and are about

1 the size of a pencil eraser, can be recognized by their
2 asymmetry, border irregularity, color variation and evolving
3 size, shape and color; and

4 WHEREAS, Melanoma is almost always curable if it is
5 recognized and treated early, but if melanoma is not detected,
6 it can spread to other parts of the body where it becomes harder
7 to treat and is often fatal; and

8 WHEREAS, Melanoma is the most common form of cancer for young
9 adults 25 to 29 years of age and the second most common form of
10 cancer for young individuals 15 to 29 years of age; and

11 WHEREAS, An individual's risk for developing melanoma doubles
12 if the individual had more than five sunburns and triples if the
13 individual occasionally uses a tanning bed; and

14 WHEREAS, Even one indoor tanning session increases the user's
15 chance of developing melanoma by 20%, and each additional
16 session during the same year increases the user's risk by
17 another 2%; and

18 WHEREAS, An individual also has a higher chance of developing
19 melanoma if the individual has a large number of moles, fair
20 skin, a weakened immune system or a personal or family history
21 of melanoma; and

22 WHEREAS, The National Cancer Institute estimated that the
23 cost of treating melanoma in 2020 was \$3.16 billion, up from
24 \$2.36 billion in 2010; and

25 WHEREAS, These costs will continue to rise as incidences of
26 melanoma climb nearly 2% annually in the United States and 5%
27 annually in this Commonwealth; and

28 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth can significantly
29 reduce their chances of developing melanoma by limiting their
30 time in the sun when rays are most intense between 10 a.m. and 4

1 p.m., wearing protective clothing and applying sunscreen with a
2 sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15; and

3 WHEREAS, Children in particular need protection from the sun,
4 including playing in the shade at playgrounds and properly
5 applying sunscreen; and

6 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth are also advised to
7 examine their skin regularly for the warning signs of melanoma
8 and to see their physicians annually for a professional skin
9 exam; and

10 WHEREAS, Greater recognition of the dangers of skin cancer,
11 particularly melanoma, and of the importance of preventive
12 measures and early detection is needed among residents of this
13 Commonwealth; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate May 2022 as "Skin Cancer
15 Detection and Prevention Month" and further designate the first
16 Monday of May 2022 as "Melanoma Monday" in Pennsylvania; and be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the dangers of melanoma
19 and other skin cancers to promote prevention and early detection
20 among residents of this Commonwealth.