

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 41

Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, SANCHEZ, GUENST, SOLOMON, DELLOSO,  
NEILSON, CONKLIN, GREEN AND WEBSTER, MARCH 21, 2023

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AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 29, 2023

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## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Establishing the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the  
2 history of the State song of the Commonwealth, solicit  
3 submissions for a new State song and recommend changes to the  
4 State song.

5 WHEREAS, During the 1987-1988 legislative session, the chair  
6 of the House State Government Committee led a committee tasked  
7 with recommending a State song for the Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, The committee was composed of representatives from  
9 the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, the Pennsylvania  
10 Council on the Arts, professional musicians and members of the  
11 public; and

12 WHEREAS, After receiving hundreds of song submissions from  
13 the public, the committee selected the song "Pennsylvania" by  
14 Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner; and

15 WHEREAS, The act of November 29, 1990 (P.L.598, No.150),  
16 referred to as the Official State Song Act, adopted the song  
17 "Pennsylvania" as the official State song of the Commonwealth;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, It is in the interest of this Commonwealth to adopt

1 a State song that represents the culture, history, spirit and  
2 people of Pennsylvania; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
4 establish the Pennsylvania State Song Commission to study the  
5 history of the State song of the Commonwealth, solicit  
6 submissions for a new State song and recommend changes to the  
7 State song, WHICH SHALL NOT BE BINDING UNLESS ENACTED BY A <--  
8 SUBSEQUENT ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following  
10 members:

11 (1) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
12 Senate;

13 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
14 Senate;

15 (3) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the  
16 House of Representatives;

17 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
18 House of Representatives;

19 (5) one representative from the Pennsylvania Music  
20 Educators Association;

21 (6) one representative from the Pennsylvania Council on  
22 the Arts;

23 (7) one representative from the American Federation of  
24 Musicians who, at the time of the formation of the  
25 commission, resides in this Commonwealth; and

26 (8) two members of the public appointed by the Governor;  
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the commission hold its first meeting within  
29 60 days of the adoption of this resolution and meet no less than  
30 quarterly thereafter; and be it further

1       RESOLVED, That at its first meeting, the commission elect one  
2 member to serve as chair of the commission; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the commission has the authority to add  
4 additional members to the commission and create subgroups within  
5 the commission as it sees fit; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the commission seek comments and submissions  
7 from the public on recommendations for a new State song; and be  
8 it further

9       RESOLVED, That the commission choose a song, or songs, to  
10 recommend to the General Assembly to become the new State song;  
11 and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the members of the commission serve without  
13 compensation but be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable  
14 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and be it  
15 further

16       RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission  
17 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of  
18 Representatives; and be it further

19       RESOLVED, That the approval of the President pro tempore of  
20 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be  
21 required to preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission  
22 that will entail the expenditure of State funds and approve all  
23 expenditures, including expense reimbursement requests of  
24 commission members, prior to payment; and be it further

25       RESOLVED, That nothing in this concurrent resolution preclude  
26 the commission from consulting or seeking the expertise of any  
27 individual, nonprofit entity, Commonwealth agency or office or  
28 legislative committee of the General Assembly to aid with the  
29 selection of a new State song; and be it further

30       RESOLVED, That the commission issue a final report with its

1 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within 12  
2 months of the adoption of this resolution.