
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 163 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY WEBSTER, MADDEN AND SANCHEZ, JUNE 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JUNE 27, 2023

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

5 WHEREAS, The act of June 13, 1907 (P.L.560, No.373), entitled
6 "An act designating the official flag of the Commonwealth of
7 Pennsylvania, and describing the same; providing for the
8 carrying of such flag by the regiments of the National Guard of
9 Pennsylvania; authorizing the Secretary of the Commonwealth to
10 provide, and have deposited in the office of Secretary of the
11 Commonwealth, a model of said flag, and making an appropriation
12 therefor," designates the official flag of the Commonwealth of
13 Pennsylvania and provides for the design of the flag; and

14 WHEREAS, The State flag is required to have a blue
15 background, using the same blue found in the United States flag,
16 with the Pennsylvania State coat of arms in the center and edges
17 trimmed with a fringe of knotted yellow silk; and

18 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is one of 20 states with a flag that
19 has a seal on a blue background, making it indistinguishable

1 from other state flags; and

2 WHEREAS, The North American Vexillological Association
3 outlined five principles of a good flag, which are to:

- 4 (1) keep it simple;
- 5 (2) use meaningful symbolism;
- 6 (3) use two or three basic colors;
- 7 (4) avoid lettering or seals; and
- 8 (5) be distinctive or be related;

9 and

10 WHEREAS, The State flag of the Commonwealth violates every
11 single good flag principle; and

12 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania deserves a State flag that is
13 recognizable and stands out from other states while utilizing
14 good flag principles; therefore be it

15 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
16 establish the Pennsylvania State Flag Commission to study the
17 history of the State flag of the Commonwealth, solicit design
18 submissions for a new State flag and recommend changes to the
19 State flag; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the commission consist of the following
21 members:

22 (1) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the
23 Senate;

24 (2) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
25 Senate;

26 (3) one member appointed by the Majority Leader of the
27 House of Representatives;

28 (4) one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the
29 House of Representatives;

30 (5) one representative from the Pennsylvania Council on

1 the Arts;

2 (6) one representative from the North American
3 Vexillological Association who, at the time of the formation
4 of the commission, resides in this Commonwealth; and

5 (7) three members of the public appointed by the
6 Governor;

7 and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That at its first meeting, the commission elect one
9 member to serve as the chairperson of the commission; and be it
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That the commission have the authority to add
12 additional members to the commission and create subgroups within
13 the commission as it sees fit; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the commission seek comments and submissions
15 from the public on recommendations for a new State flag; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That the commission choose a flag design, or flag
18 designs, to recommend to the General Assembly to become the new
19 State flag; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the members of the commission serve without
21 compensation but be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable
22 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That reasonable expenses incurred by the commission
25 be equally divided between the Senate and the House of
26 Representatives; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the approval of the President pro tempore of
28 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be
29 required to preauthorize all proposed actions of the commission
30 that will entail the expenditure of State funds and approve all

1 expenditures, including expense reimbursement requests of
2 commission members, prior to payment; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That nothing in this concurrent resolution preclude
4 the commission from consulting or seeking the expertise of any
5 individual, nonprofit entity, Commonwealth agency or office or
6 legislative committee of the General Assembly to aid with the
7 selection of a new State flag; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the commission issue a final report with its
9 findings and recommendations to the General Assembly within 12
10 months of the adoption of this resolution.